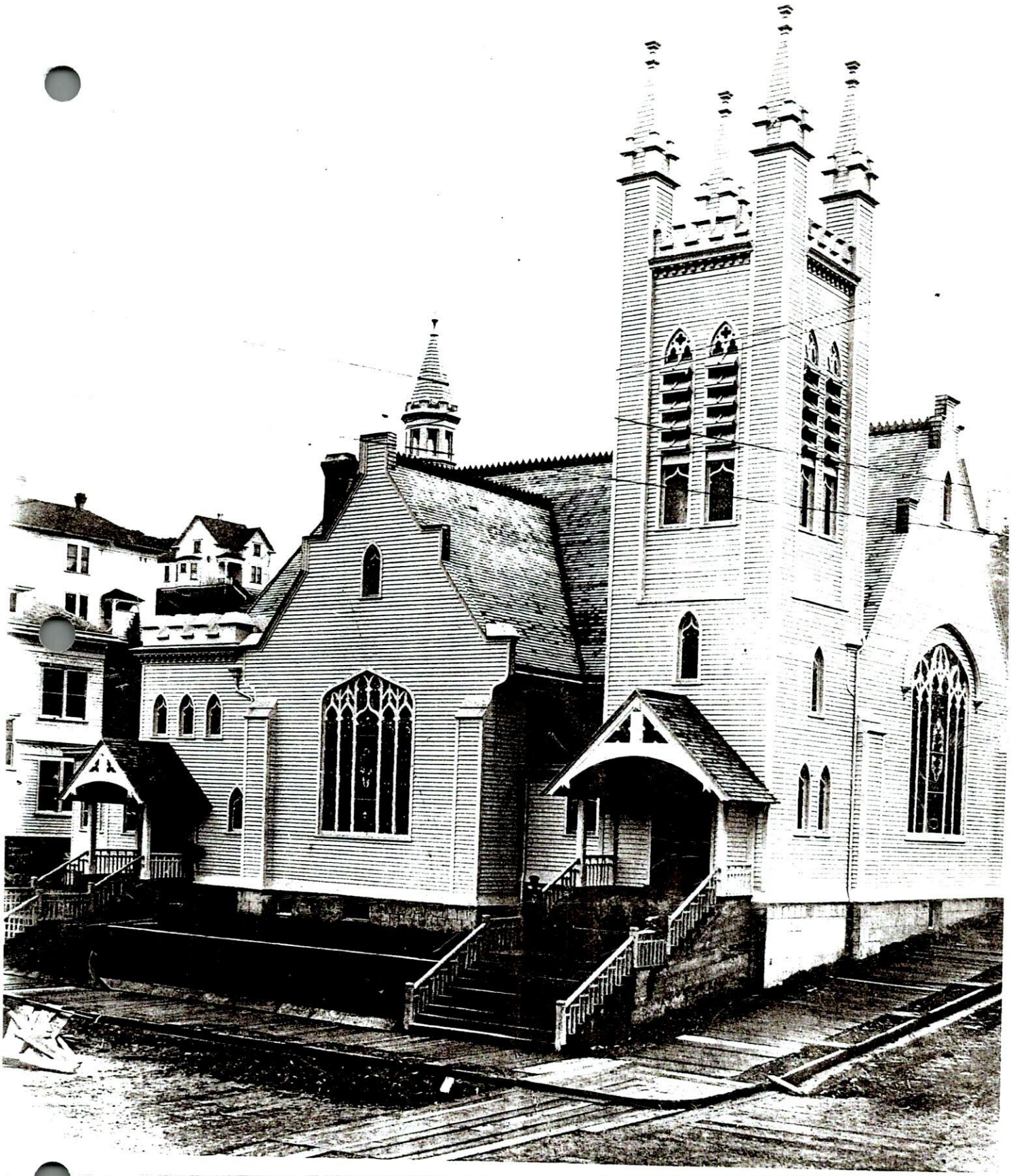


A BRIEF HISTORY

First Presbyterian Church

The First Presbyterian Church of Astoria began on May 5, 1877, when twelve Astoria members of the Clatsop Plains Pioneer Presbyterian Church and eight other Astorians gathered for worship in the schoolhouse in Upper-town. The original church building was constructed in 1881-83 on what is now 9th Street at Duane. The bell, still calling people to worship, was shipped from New York around the Horn. The present building, costing $19,075 to construct at 11th and Grand, was dedicated in 1903. The pipe organ was installed in 1911. At one point, March 1923, the Sunday School was 260 students strong. Church membership that year was 447. In 1928 the choir's Easter cantata was repeated in Seaside with fifty voices and an eighteen-piece orchestra. In 1936-37 the size of the church building was more than doubled with the addition of an education wing.

The church has always been active in the community. After the great Astoria fire of 1922, when the population dropped from 30,000 to 10,000, it was this church's pastor who chaired the committee appointed to restore order out of chaos. Church members helped build Astoria High School and when that school burned in the 1940's allowed the classes to be held for many months in the church education wing. Church members started the first program in the City for teaching English as a second language, served on the City Council and even chaired that Council, served in the State Legislature, served on the Cancer Society Board and other boards, supported the local Friday Music Club, ministered to the sailors, helped create a tie between Tongue Point and City citizens, hosted a Viet Nam refugee family, chaired the committee that designed the City's road traffic pattern, hosted the Anne Frank Exhibit, organized and are still hosting the county food bank. The church continues to spread the Gospel and to train people in service to humanity in the name of Jesus Christ.

Info about Stained Glass Windows

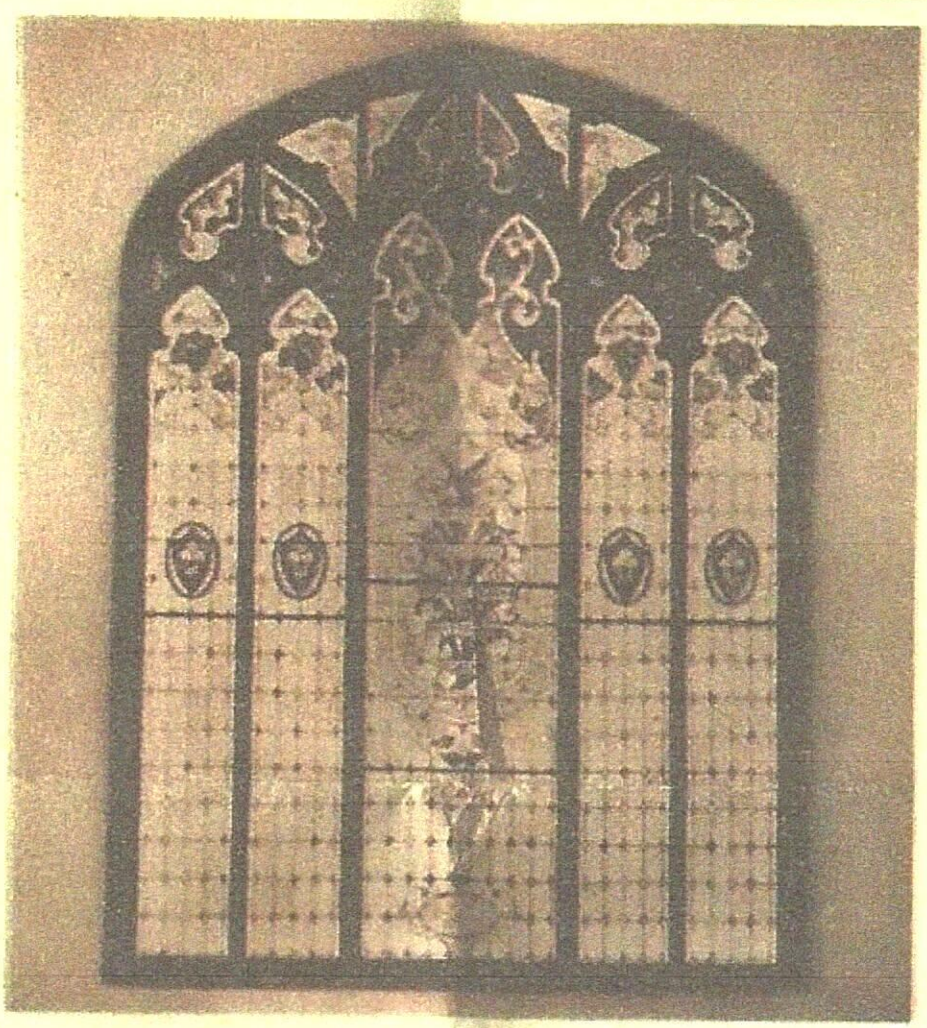
Castlanet, Wa.
Aug 8, 1983

Rev John L Gradenberger -
Dear Sir:
I read with interest
that the First Presbyterian
Church of Astoria will be
open for a tour of historic
places & other landmarks
The church is of particular
interest to me because my
father, David L. Povey of
Povey Stained Glass Studios
in Portland designed, had
made & installed the windows
when the church was built
in 1903 -
Later I came to live in
Astoria & became a member
but on moving to Skamokawa
We transferred to local
church there -

I am proud of having
had connection to the
beautiful and gracious
church - a fine institution
of such lasting influence

Sincerely

(Mrs Raymond Moore) Dyman Povey Moore



The First Presbyterian Church

SERMON IN STAINED GLASS

As windows from the street may seem
Begrimed and dim, while from within
They glow in radiant, bright-hued sheen;

So we, confused — lives bleak and bare —
Find trouble spent, faith confident,
Within a reverent house of prayer.

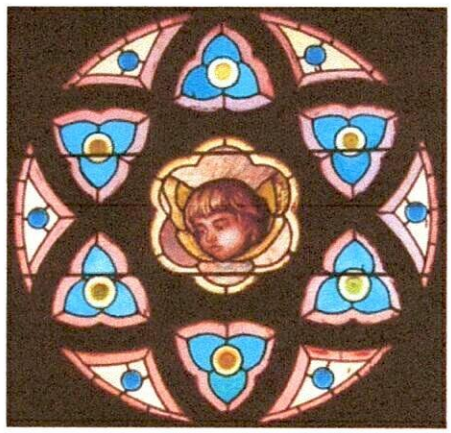
Eleventh at Grand Avenue Phone 2708-J Astoria, Oregon

Povey Brothers Studio

Povey Brothers Studio, also known as **Povey Brothers Art Glass Works** or **Povey Bros. Glass Co.**, was an American producer of stained glass windows based in Portland, Oregon. The studio was active from 1888 to 1928.[1] As the largest and best known art glass company in Oregon, it produced windows for homes, churches, and commercial buildings throughout the West.[2] When the firm was founded in 1888, it was the only creative window firm in Portland, then a city of 42,000 residents.[3]

Povey Brothers was known as the "Tiffany of the Northwest"[4][5] and many of the company's windows still exist in historic buildings throughout the region, including those on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

The windows were considered to have extraordinary quality and beauty, and the firm's work was virtually unequaled in the Pacific Northwest.[3] The heyday of Povey Brothers coincided with the growing economic affluence of the region, and the brothers' work was much sought after by the new rich to decorate the large houses they were building.[3] Of this sort of installation, art glass expert Michael McCary said, "People who put in that kind of glass were kind of showing off."[6] The Great Depression and changes in house styles eventually caused demand for the brothers' work to decline, however.[3] Today Povey Brothers windows are a mark of pride in many landmark buildings in Portland.[3]



Povey Brothers rose window in Old St. Peter's Landmark, The Dalles, Oregon

Detail of Oregon State Seal skylight in the courtroom of the Oregon Supreme Court Building, Salem, Oregon

Contents

History

Production and style

Studios

Buildings containing Povey Brothers glass

- Listed on the NRHP in Oregon
- Other Oregon installations
- Works outside Oregon
- Former installations

See also

References

Further reading

External links

History

John E. G. Povey House, Portland, Oregon, home of one of the Povey Brothers

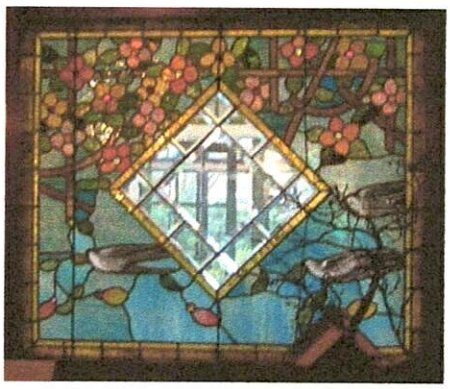
The company was founded by **David Lincoln Povey**, the son of English-born stained glass window maker Joseph Povey, who immigrated to the United States in 1848 and subsequently worked in stained glass in Philadelphia, New York City, and Newark, New Jersey.[1][3][7][8] The family, who had been in the stained glass trade for generations, eventually settled in St. Louis, Missouri.[1][3][7][9] David Povey was born in 1865.[1] He studied art at Cooper Union in New York and traveled in Europe for further study before moving to Portland.[1][7] David formed the glass company in 1888 with his brother John, shortly after working on a commission for First Presbyterian Church.[1][2][7] The company incorporated in 1893.[1] John was the main craftsman and did the glazing and leading, while David did the design and art work.[1][7] Their brother **George Povey** later joined the company as its accountant and business manager, and two Povey sisters also worked for the company.[3][7] All three of the brothers worked in various glass studios on the East Coast before establishing their Portland shop.[8] At the height of their business, the brothers employed 25 workers, including several Povey family members.[10] David died in 1924 and his sons David and Darrel took over the business.[1] In 1925, they hired Albert Gerlach, formerly of Giannini & Hilgart in Chicago and trained at the Art Institute of Chicago, to assist in the business.[1] The Povey Brothers sold the company to W. P. Fuller in 1930,[2] and Gerlach remained at the company until 1950.[1]

John Povey died in 1917. His Queen Anne Victorian home in the Irvington neighborhood, the John E. G. Povey House, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.[11][12]

David Povey's daughter, Portland architect Polly Povey Thompson, had planned to write a book on her father's works, but she died in 1994 before it could be completed.[7]

Production and style

The brothers imported their glass from Europe, but designed and constructed their windows in Portland.[7] They often used opalescent glass in their work, a style that John La Farge and Louis Tiffany had pioneered in the 1870s.[7] Their church windows were done in a Classical style often based on famous religious paintings, such as those by Raphael, and had images or scenes painted on nonopalescent glass.[2][7] They were also noted for their use of "jewels", small, thickly cut faceted pieces of glass in rich colors, and for several other types and textures of glass, including Kokomo, crackle, rippled, granite-textured, and machine-rolled.[2][10][13] The studio's early residential work was colorful and ornate, often using Art Nouveau motifs, and later work was influenced by the Arts and Crafts Movement.[2][10] Popular motifs included grape clusters, roses, lilies, birds, and dogwood, which became a signature of the company.[2] Another notable feature of the studio's work was the use of clear glass in the background to allow light to pass through the windows on the Northwest's typically overcast days.[2]



Povey Brothers window at Deepwood Estate, Salem, Oregon, showing their signature dogwood motif

Besides windows, the company also designed other glass products, including light fixtures that had a horizontal Prairie School design influence.[2]

The studio was known for using the latest equipment and trade techniques, and for working with architects and homeowners to create unique designs that set the Poveys apart.[10] David Povey, who developed a distinct style, designed virtually every window that left the studio.[10] While the company's residential work was often small in scale, its church installations could be quite massive, with multiple panels.[10]

Most Povey windows are not signed, which led to imitators passing off their work as the Poveys'.[7] It also makes the Poveys' work difficult to identify.[7][13] In 1923, David Povey began signing the widows with "Povey Brothers Studio" and the year of completion.[7] This may have first been done for the windows of the First Christian Church in Portland, and the last such signatures may have been on the windows of Atkinson Memorial Church in 1924, the year David died.[7]

Studios

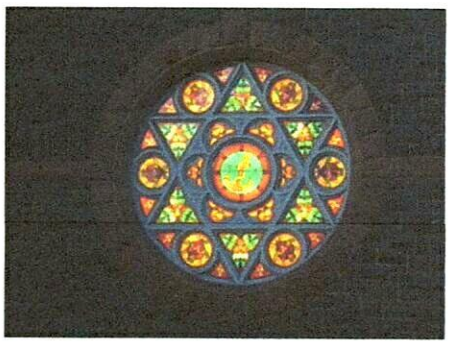
By 1889, the Povey Brothers Studio was located in the Phoenix Building at 124 SW Ash Street in Portland.[14] The building is a contributing property in the Skidmore/Old Town Historic District.[14]

In 1905, the company relocated to the Povey Building at 408 NW 5th Avenue in Portland, designed for them by architect Emil Schacht.[1] The company was still located there in 1926.[1] The Povey Building is a contributing property to the Portland New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District.[1]

Buildings containing Povey Brothers glass

Listed on the NRHP in Oregon

- Ashland Memorial Mausoleum, Mountain View Cemetery, Ashland[15]
- Atkinson Memorial Church (formerly the First Congregational Church), Oregon City (1924)[7][16]
- Boschke–Boyd House, Portland[17] (attributed)
- Burke–Clark House, Portland[18]
- Charles J. and Elsa Schnabel House (1907), Portland, NRHP-listed.[19] Two large windows installed in the tradesman entrance (verified by Bosco and Milligan) were originally from the (Ferdinand) Smith Family Mansion in what is now Lair Hill Park. Two other sets of modern geometric art glass windows in the dining room and staircase landing are attributed to Povey Brothers based in inspection by Polly Povey Thompson, daughter of designer David Povey.[20]
- David Cole House ("Queen Ann Victorian Mansion"), Portland[21]
- Deepwood Estate, Salem[22]
- Ebbert Memorial United Methodist Church, Springfield (1916), a contributing property of the Washburne Historic District[23][24]
- Elsinore Theatre, Salem, series of windows based on *Hamlet*[25]
- First Congregational United Church of Christ, Portland (1906)[26]
- First Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Portland, a contributing property of the Alphabet Historic District[27][28]
- First Presbyterian Church, Astoria, a contributing property of the Shively-McClure Historic District[29]
- First Presbyterian Church, Portland[7]
- First United Methodist Church, Ashland, a contributing property of the Skidmore Academy Historic District[30][31]
- Harmon–Neils House, Portland[32]



Rose window depicting an anchor from First Presbyterian Church in Portland, backlit at night (see also in the day)

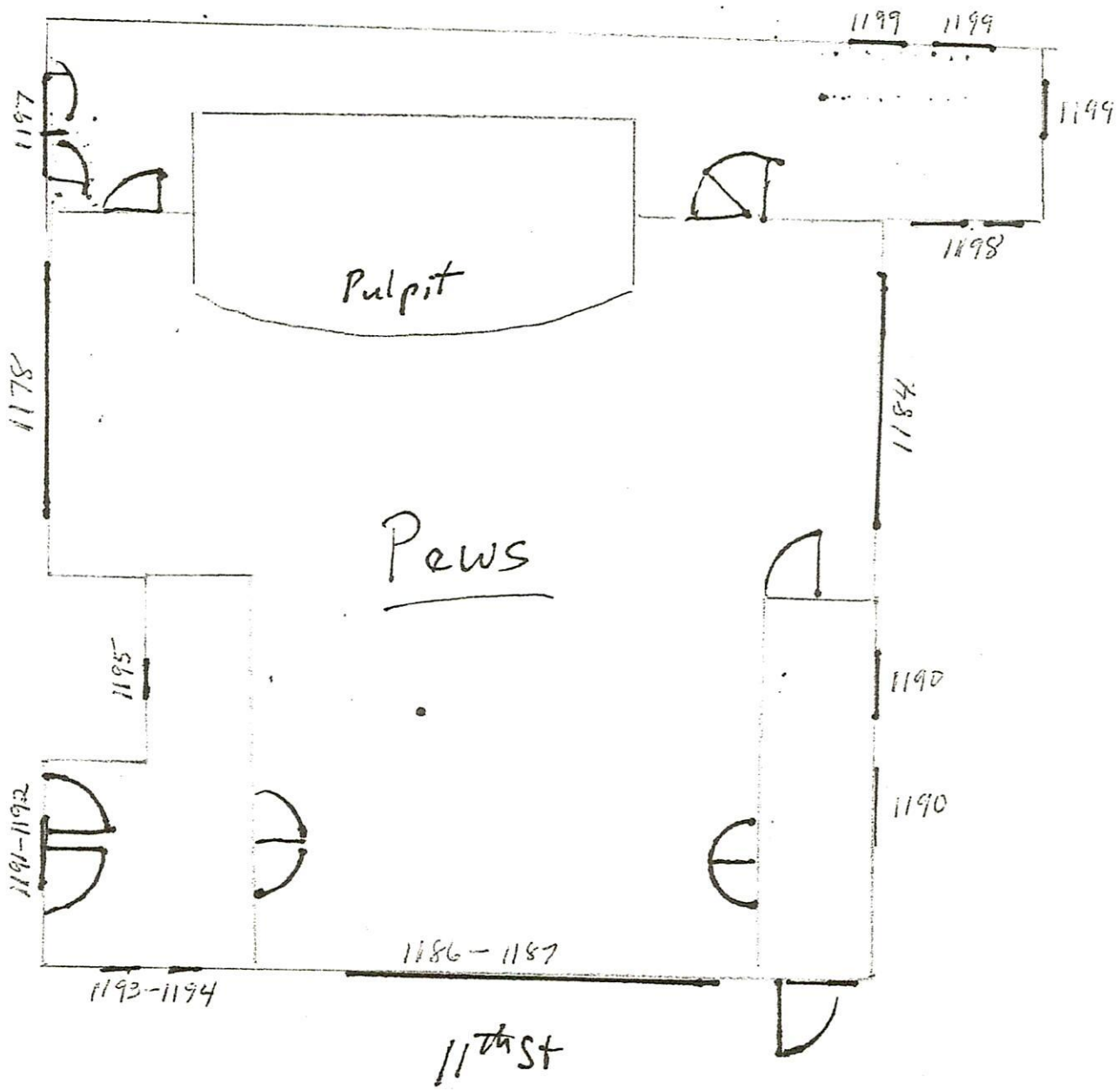
Atkinson Memorial Unitarian Church in Oregon City (formerly the First Congregational Church of Oregon City)

Area of Church Stained Glass Windows

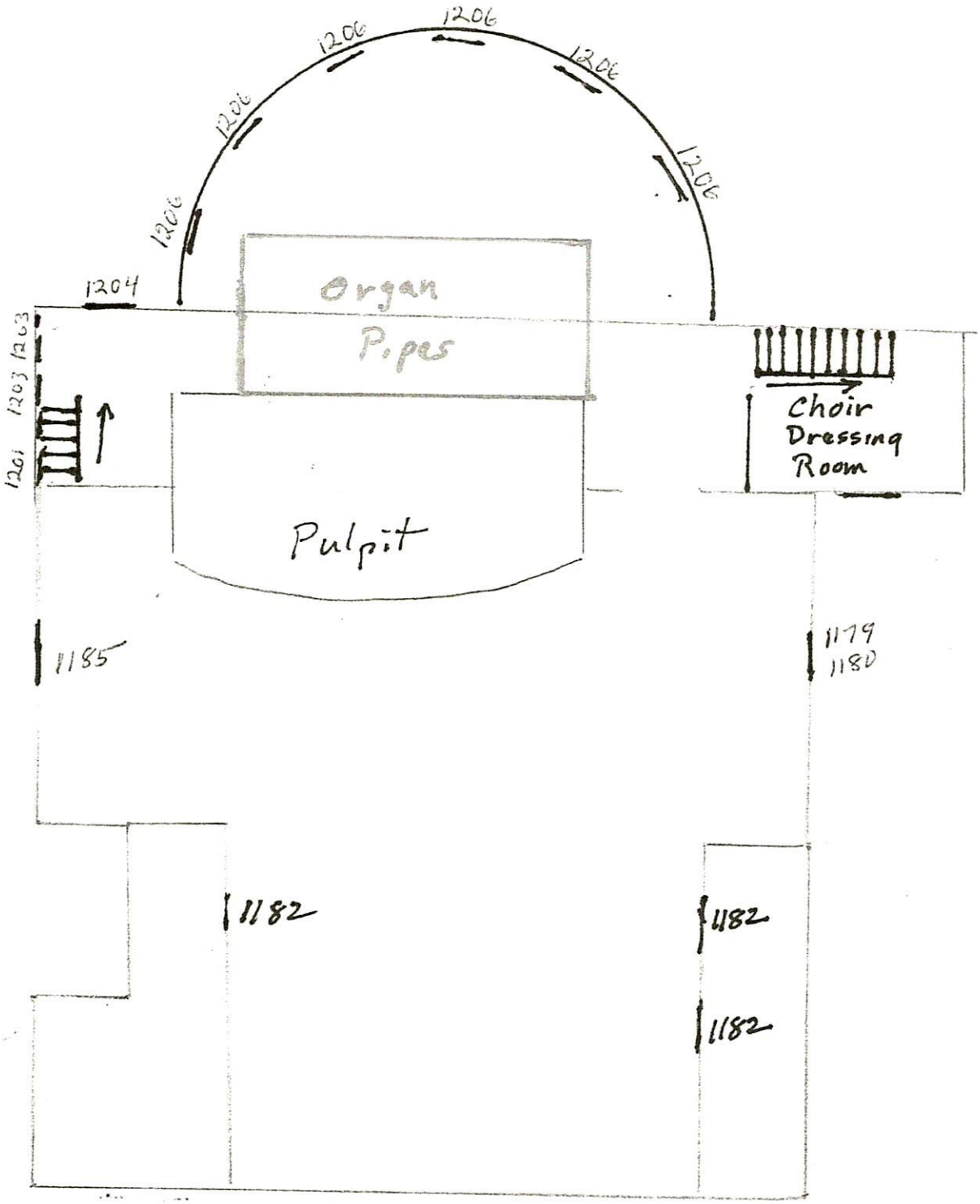
			Sq Inches
	1178	168 * 115	19320
	1179	50*20	1000
	1181	(40*25)3	3000
	1184	168*115	19320
	1185	50*20	1000
	1187	190*141	26790
	1188	(11*16)2	
		19*17	2025
	1190	(29*38)3	3306
1193-94		(56*17)2	1904
1198-99		(63*29)2	3654
	1200	51*16.75	2562.75
1201-03		(42*16.5)4	2772
	1204	(48*18)2	1728
	1206	(31.25*25)6	4687.5
		Square Inches	93069.25
		Square Feet	646.31

1181**1182**1183	Same Configuration
1179**1185	"
1188**1189**1191**1197	"
1193**1194	"
1206 * 6	"
1201**1203 * 3	"
1190**1199	"

Lower Level


1199
1199
1199
1197
1198
Pulpit
1175
1184
Pews
1195
1190
1190
1191-1192
1186-1187
1193-1194
11th St

Upper Level


1206
1206
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1206
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1204
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Organ
Pipes
Choir
Dressing
Room
Pulpit
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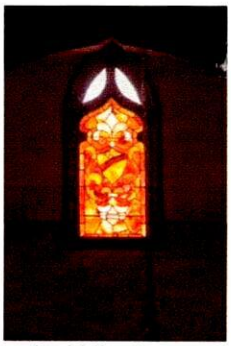
Church_Windows_1178



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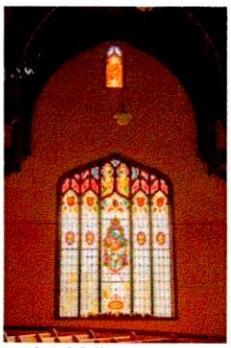

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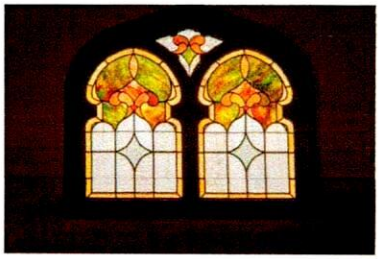

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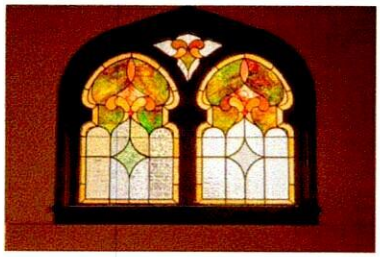

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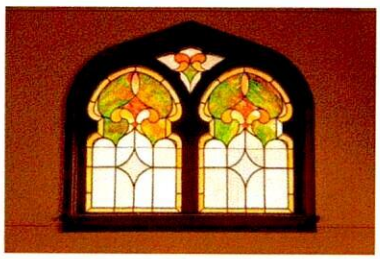

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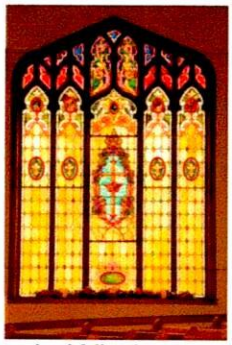

Church_Windows_1184

Church_Windows_1185

Church_Windows_1186

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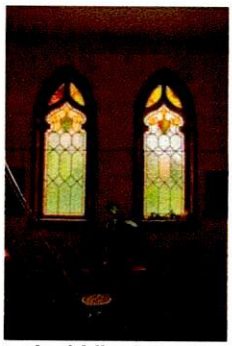
Church_Windows_1189

Church_Windows_1190

Church_Windows_1191

Church_Windows_1192



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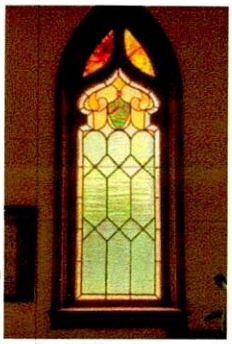

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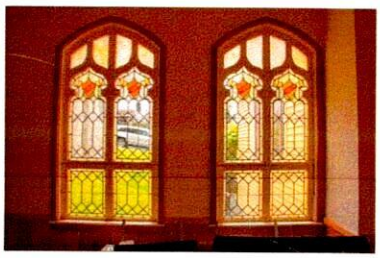
Church_Windows_1197



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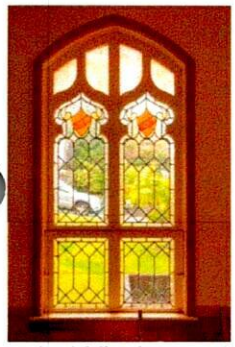

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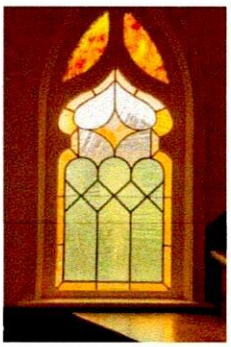

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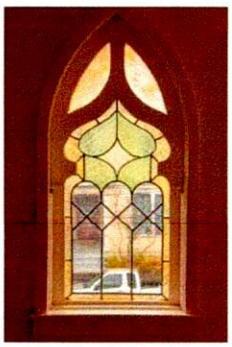

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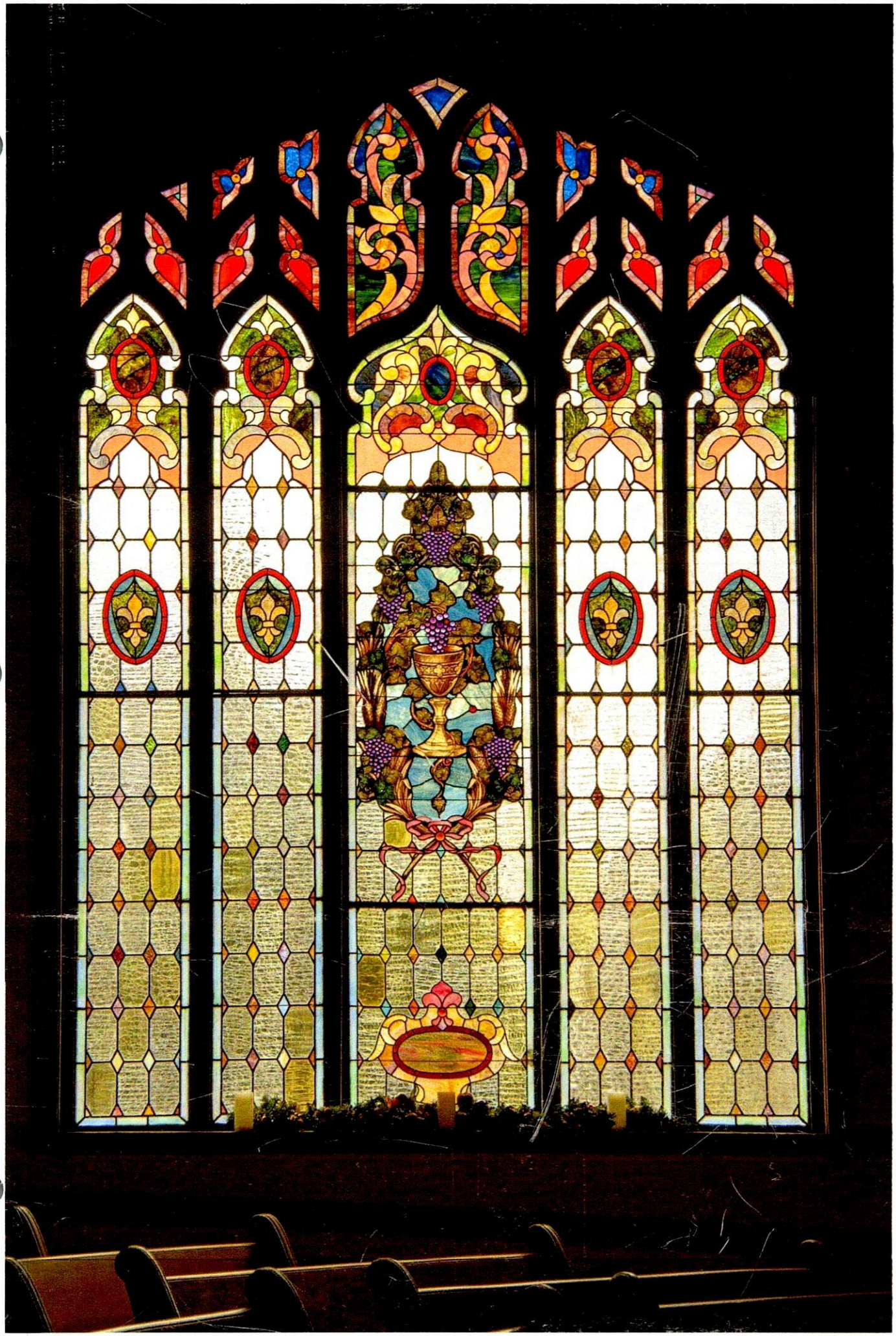
Church_Windows_1206



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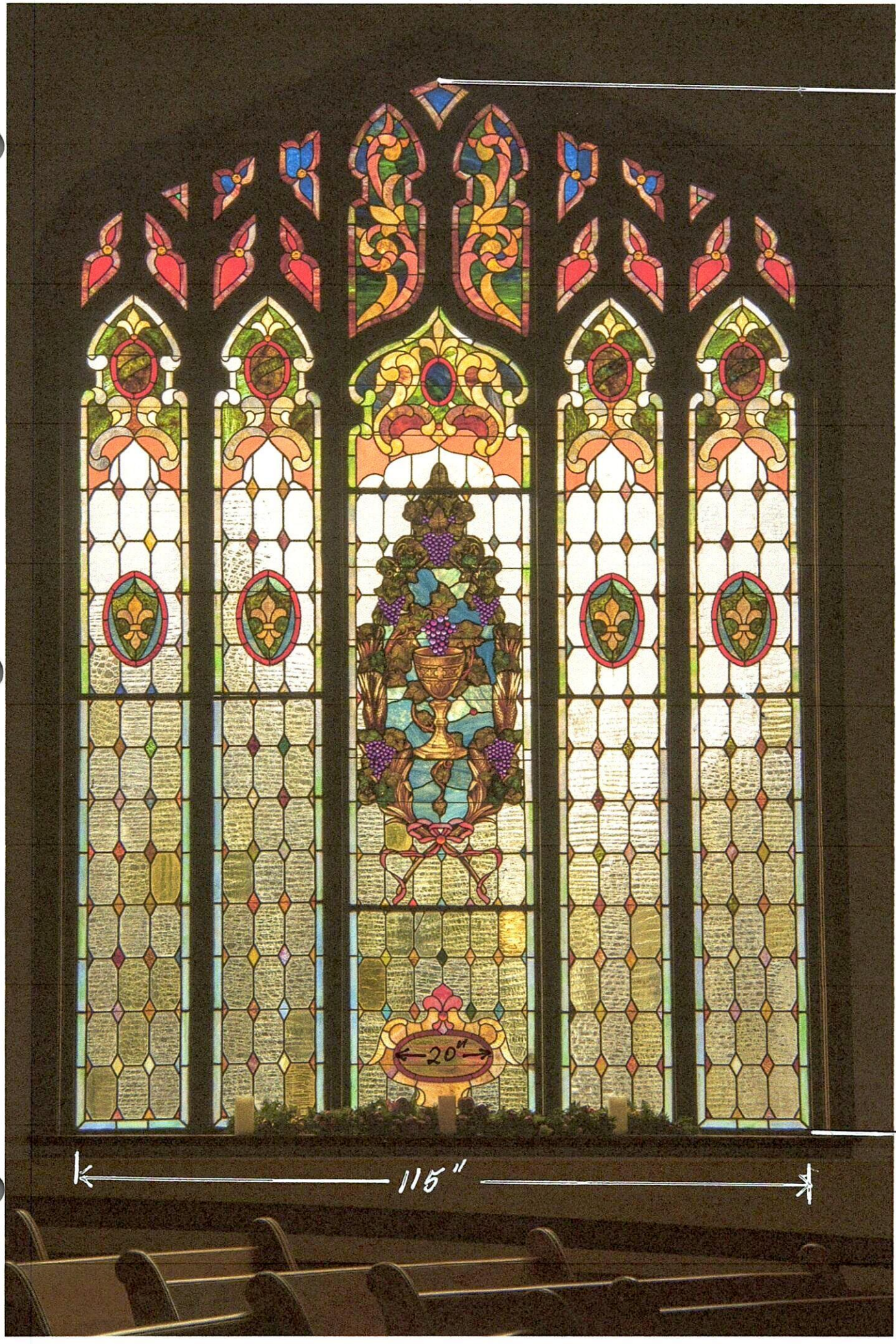

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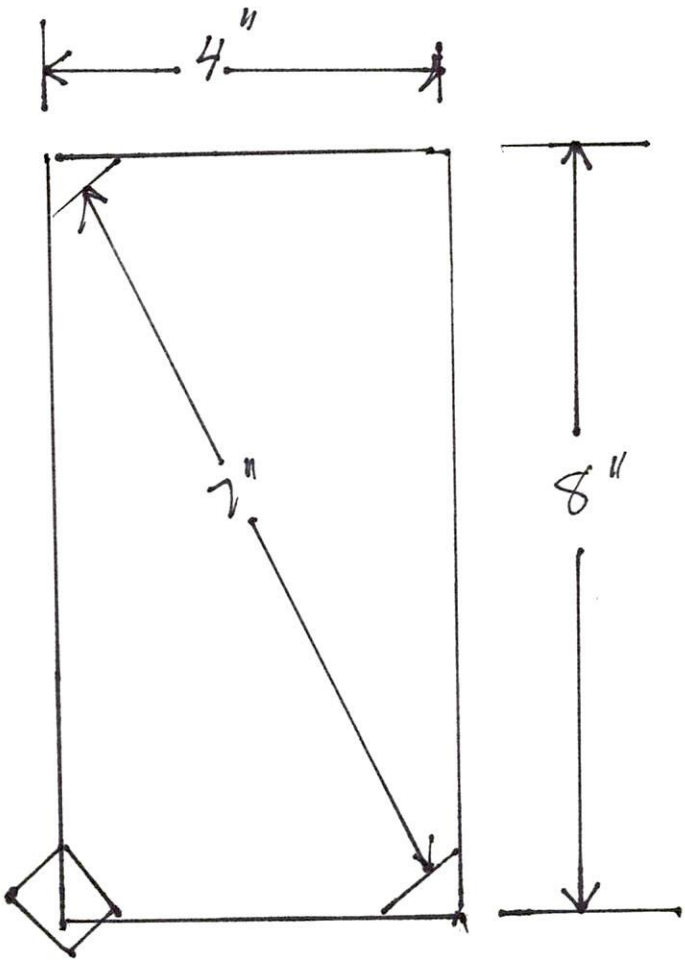
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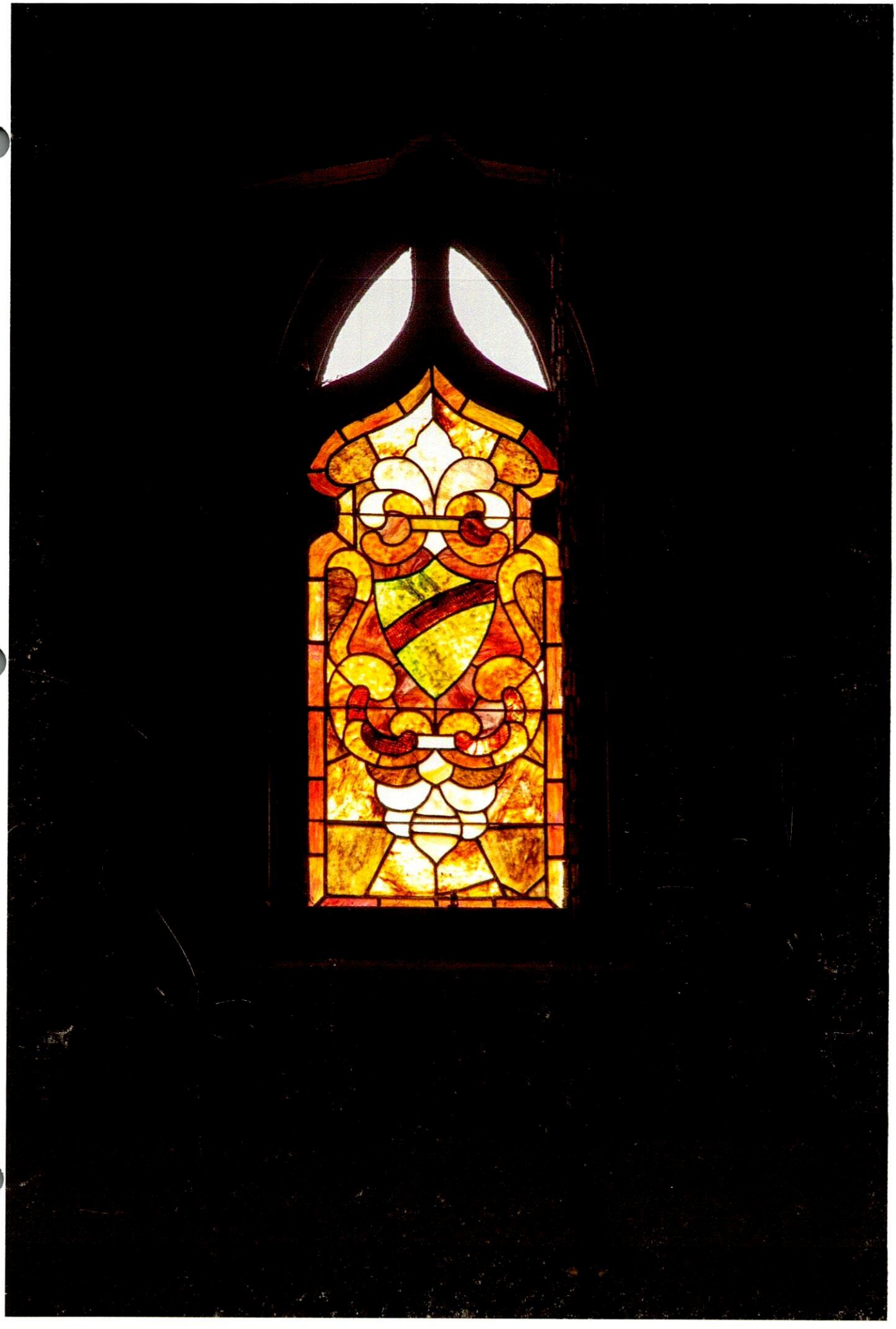

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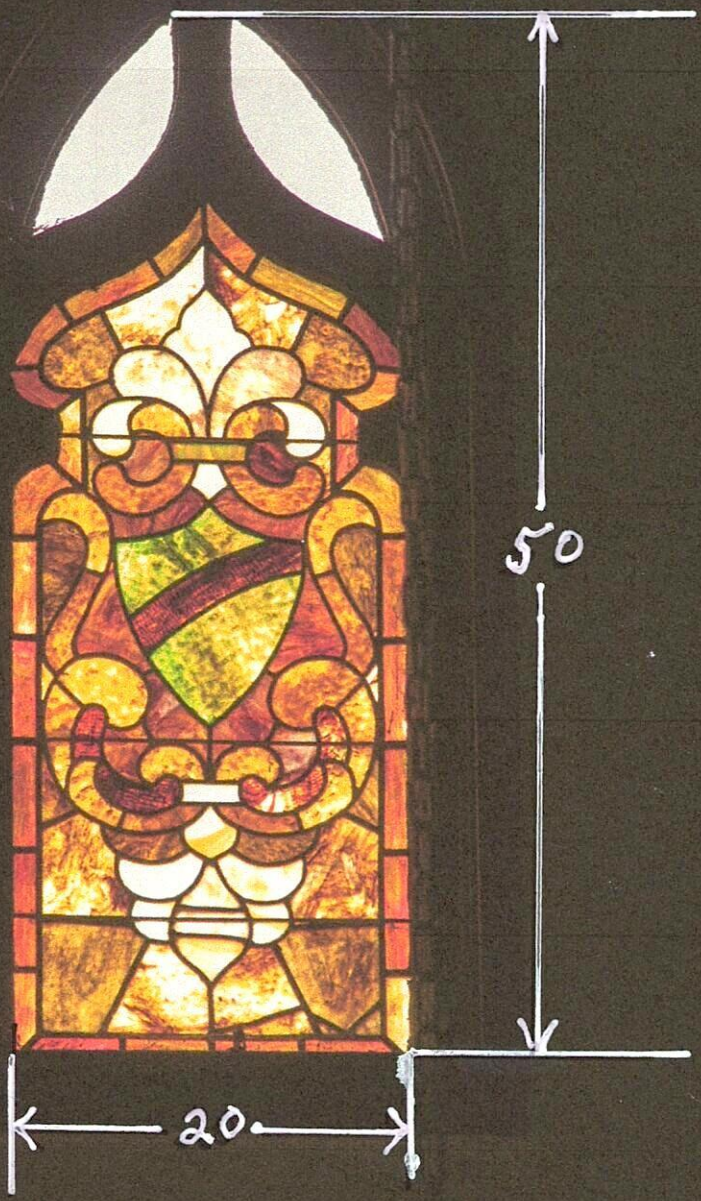

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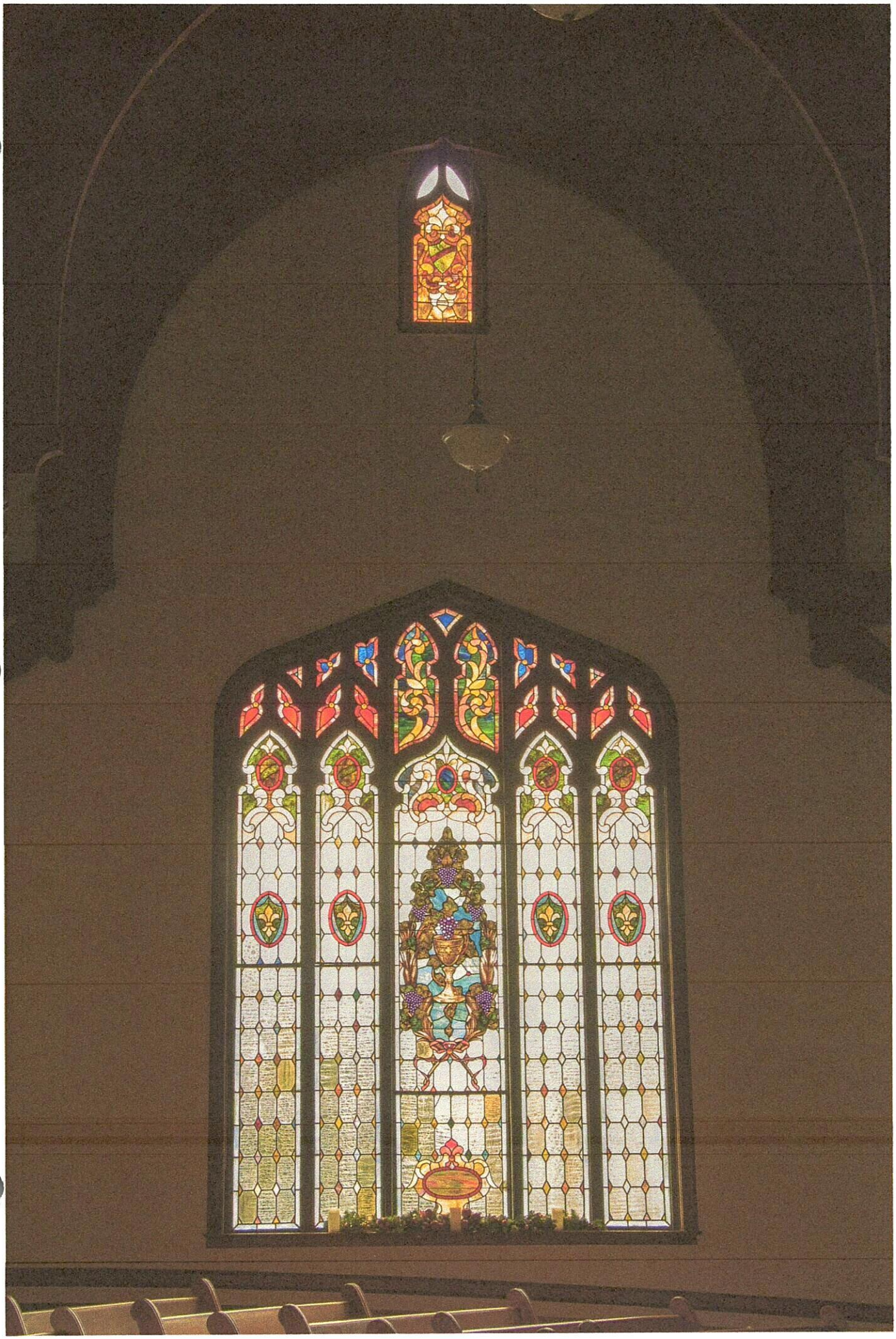

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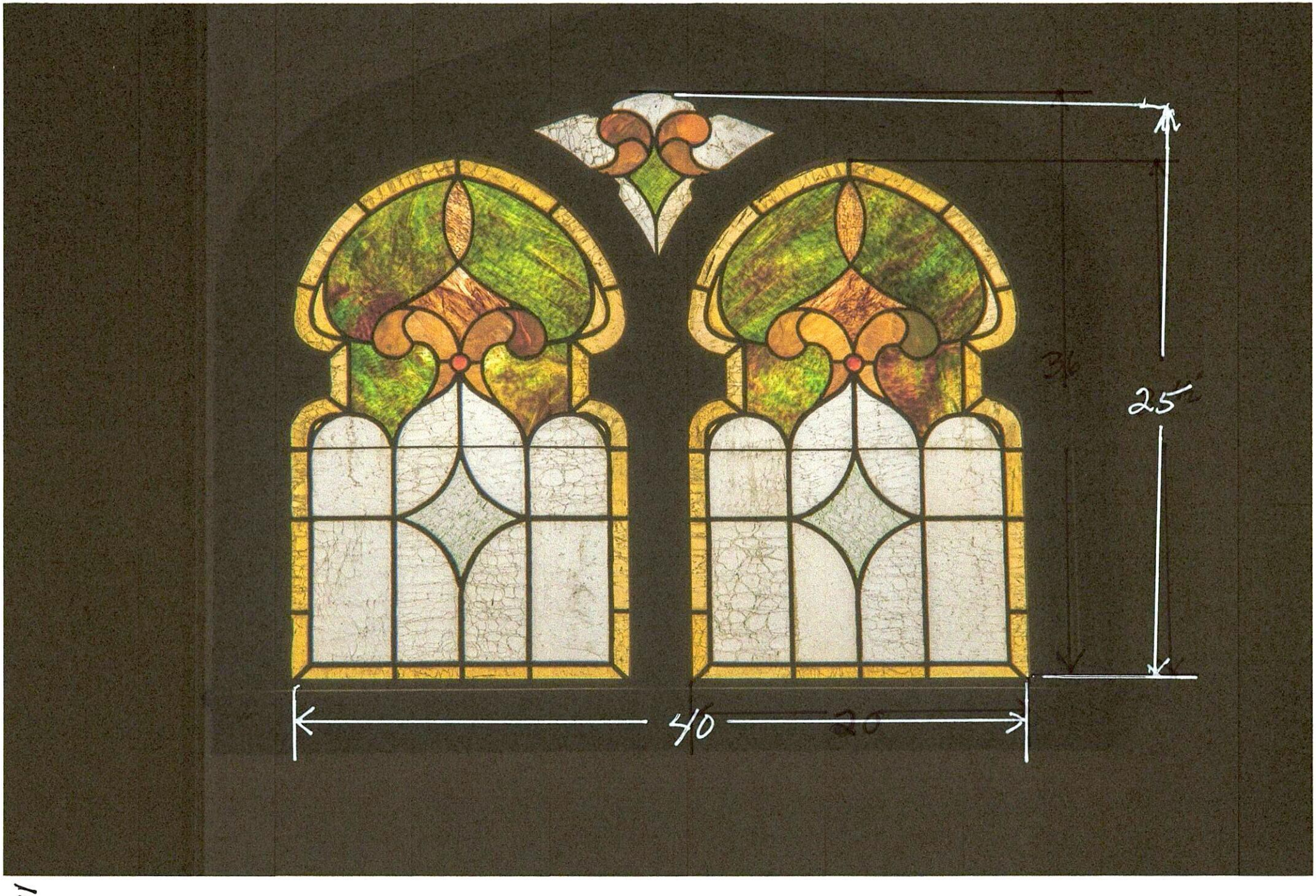

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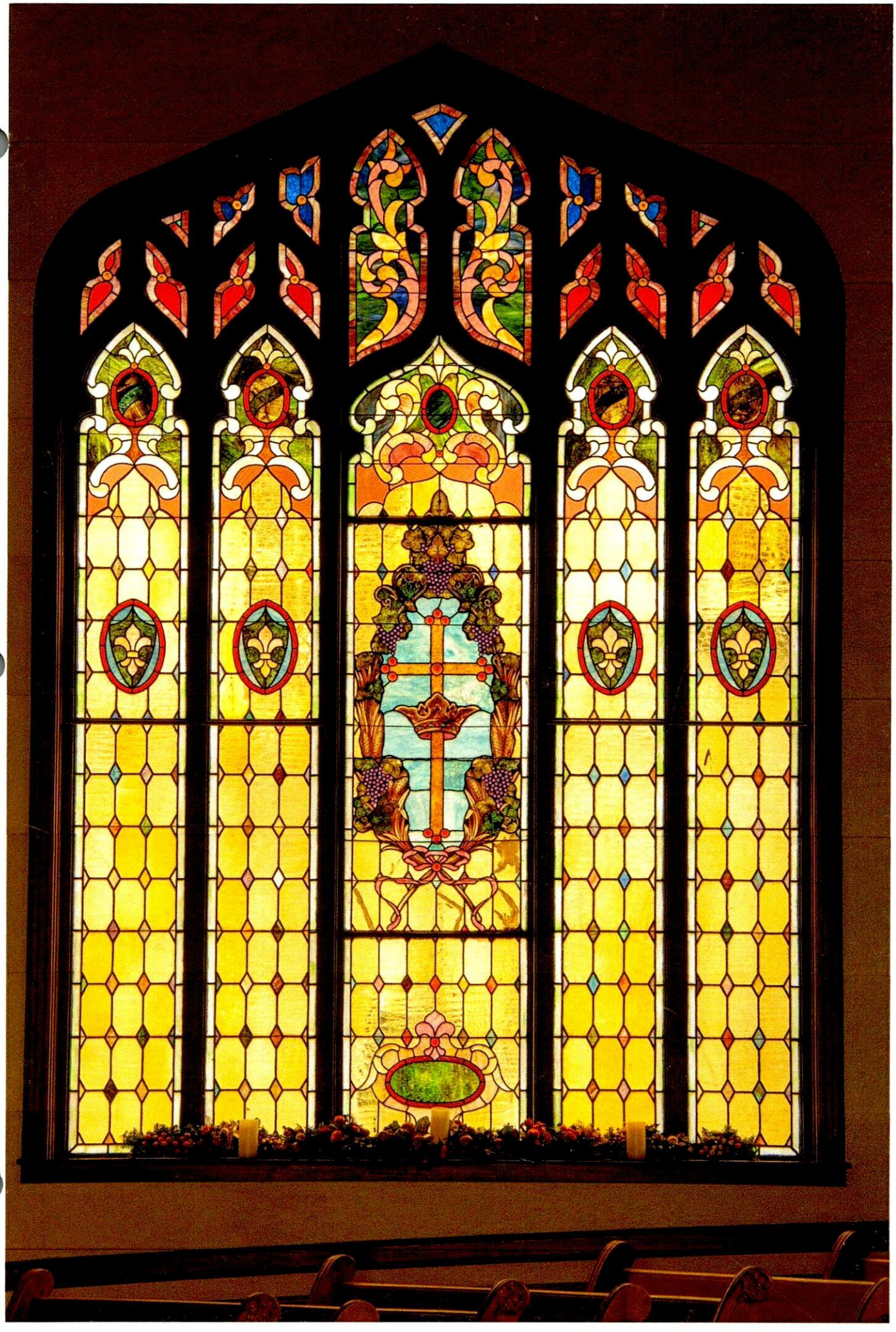

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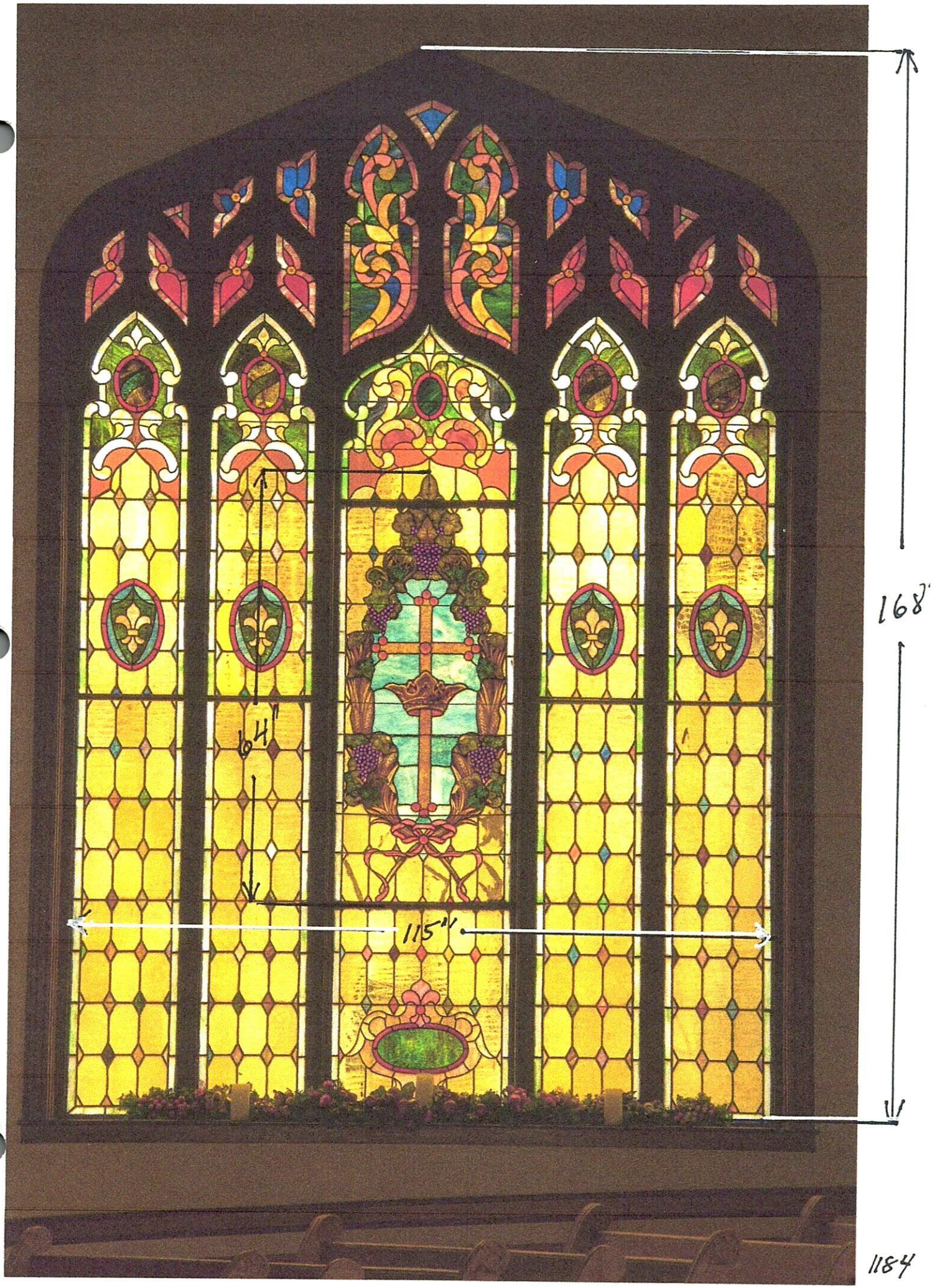
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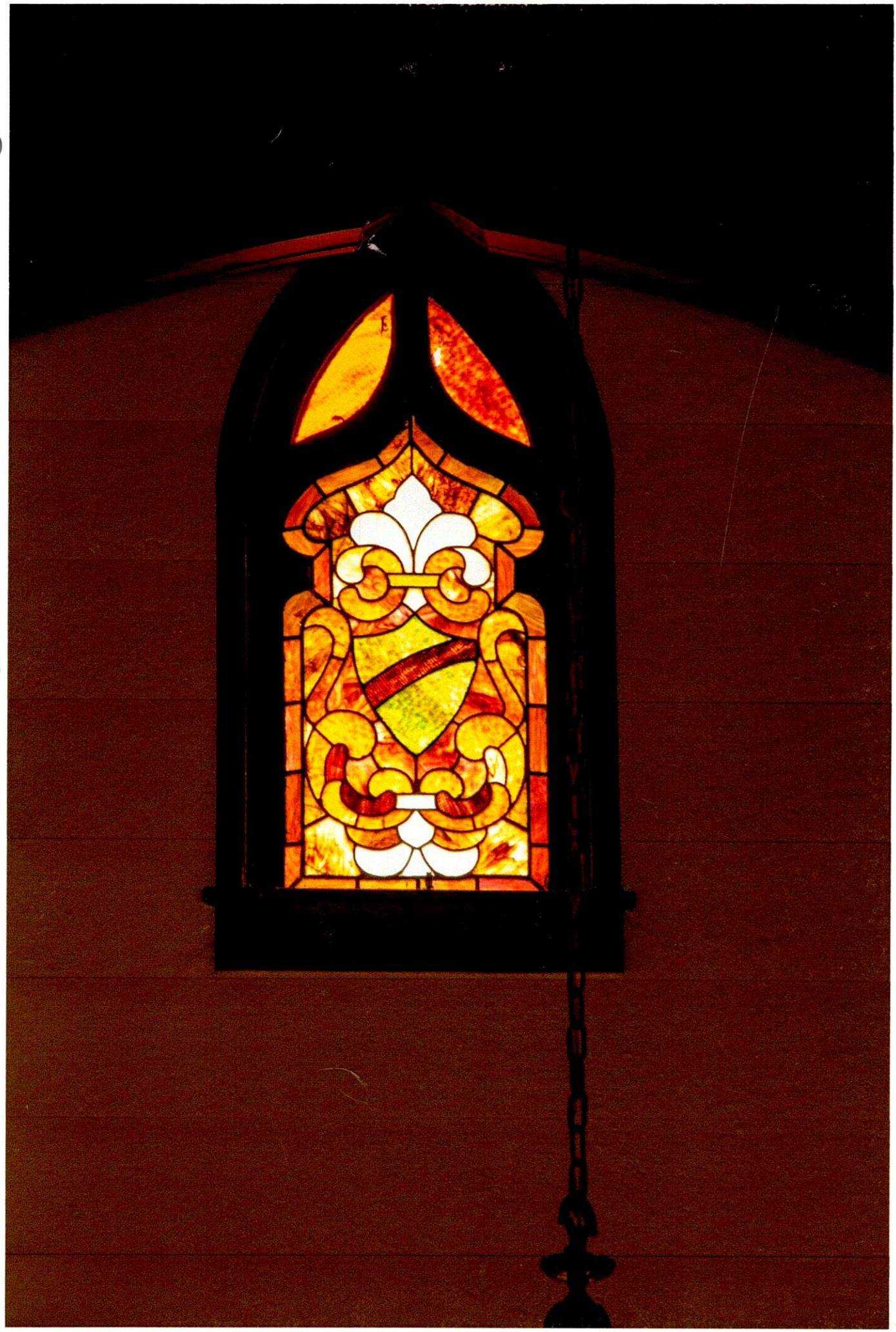

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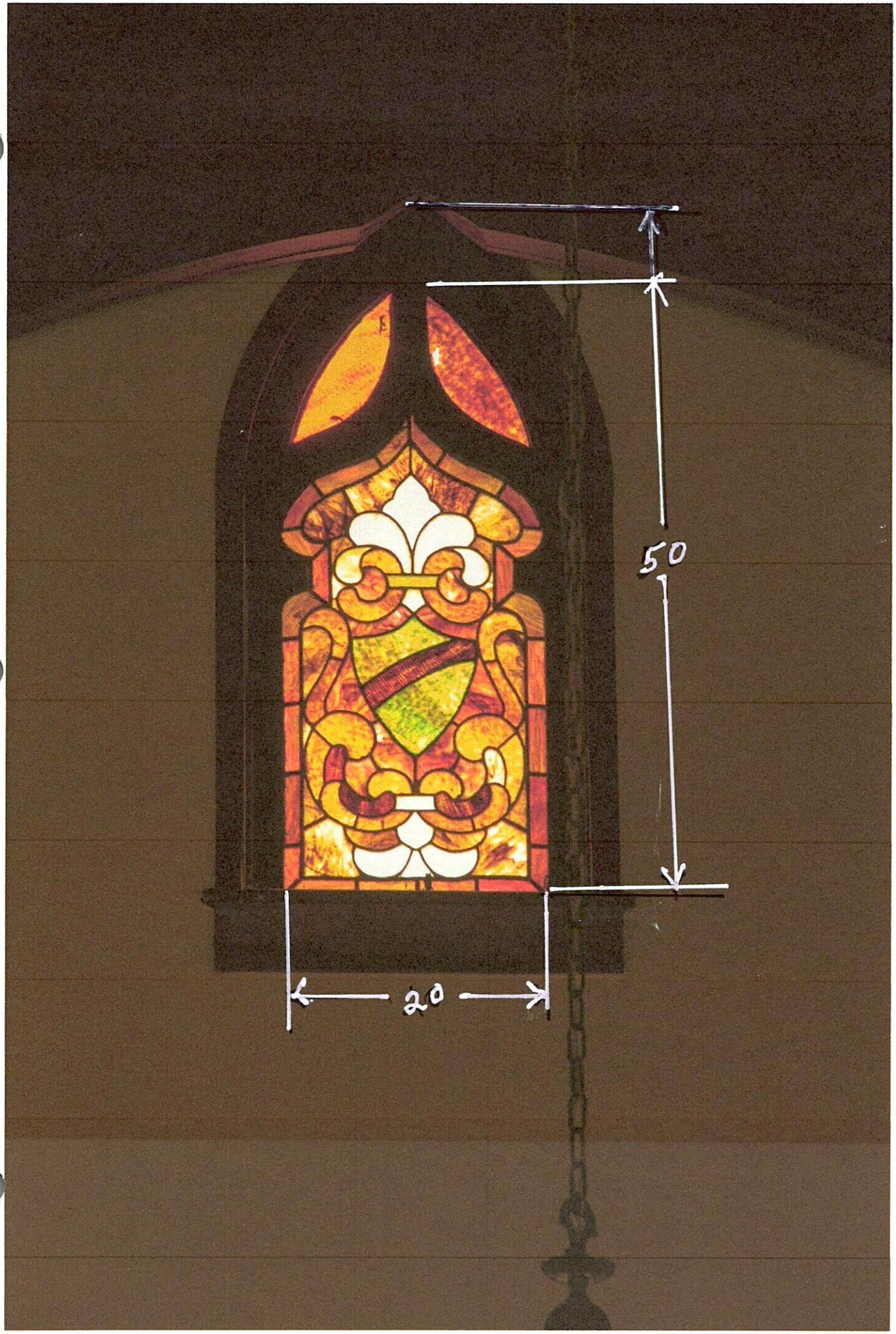

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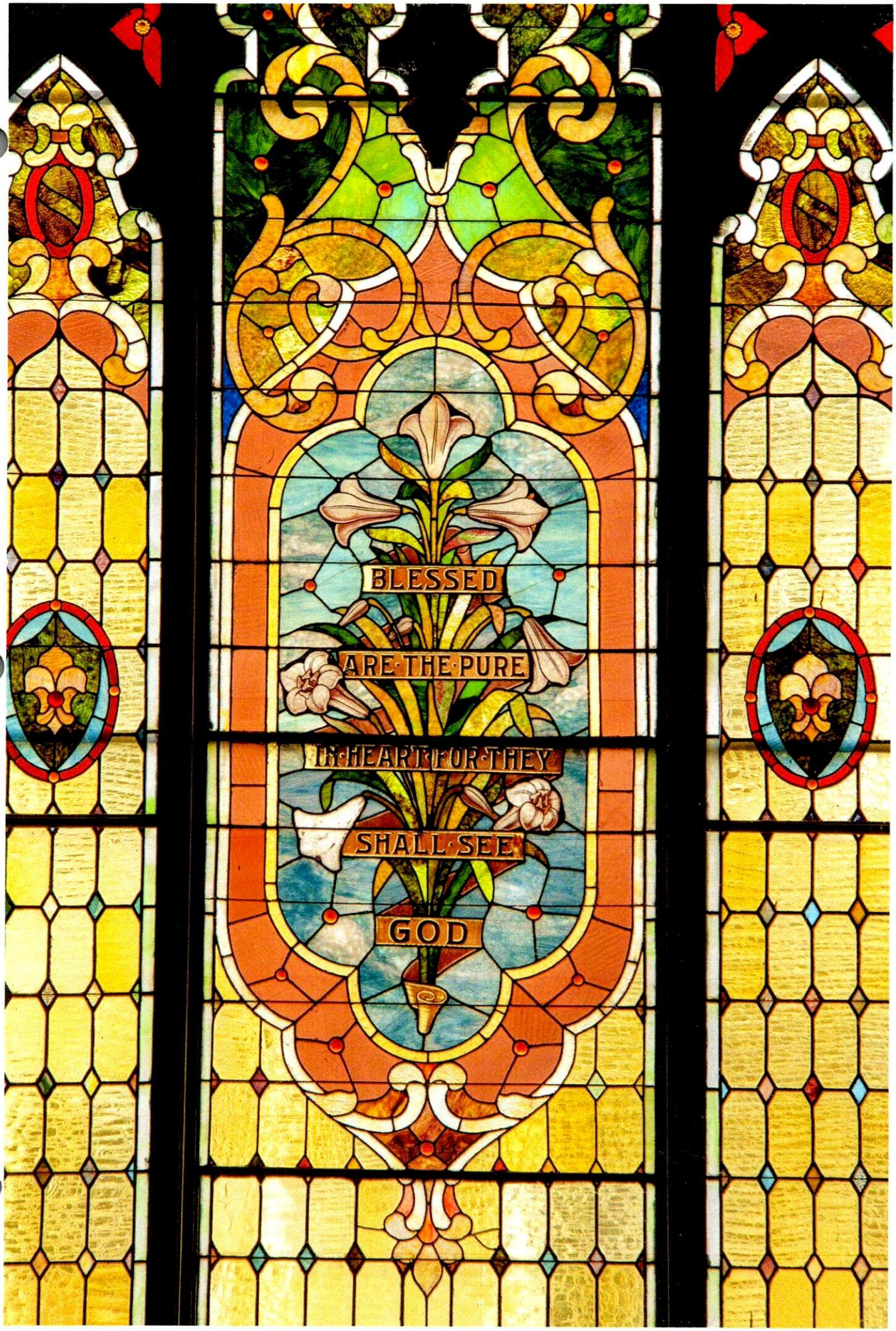

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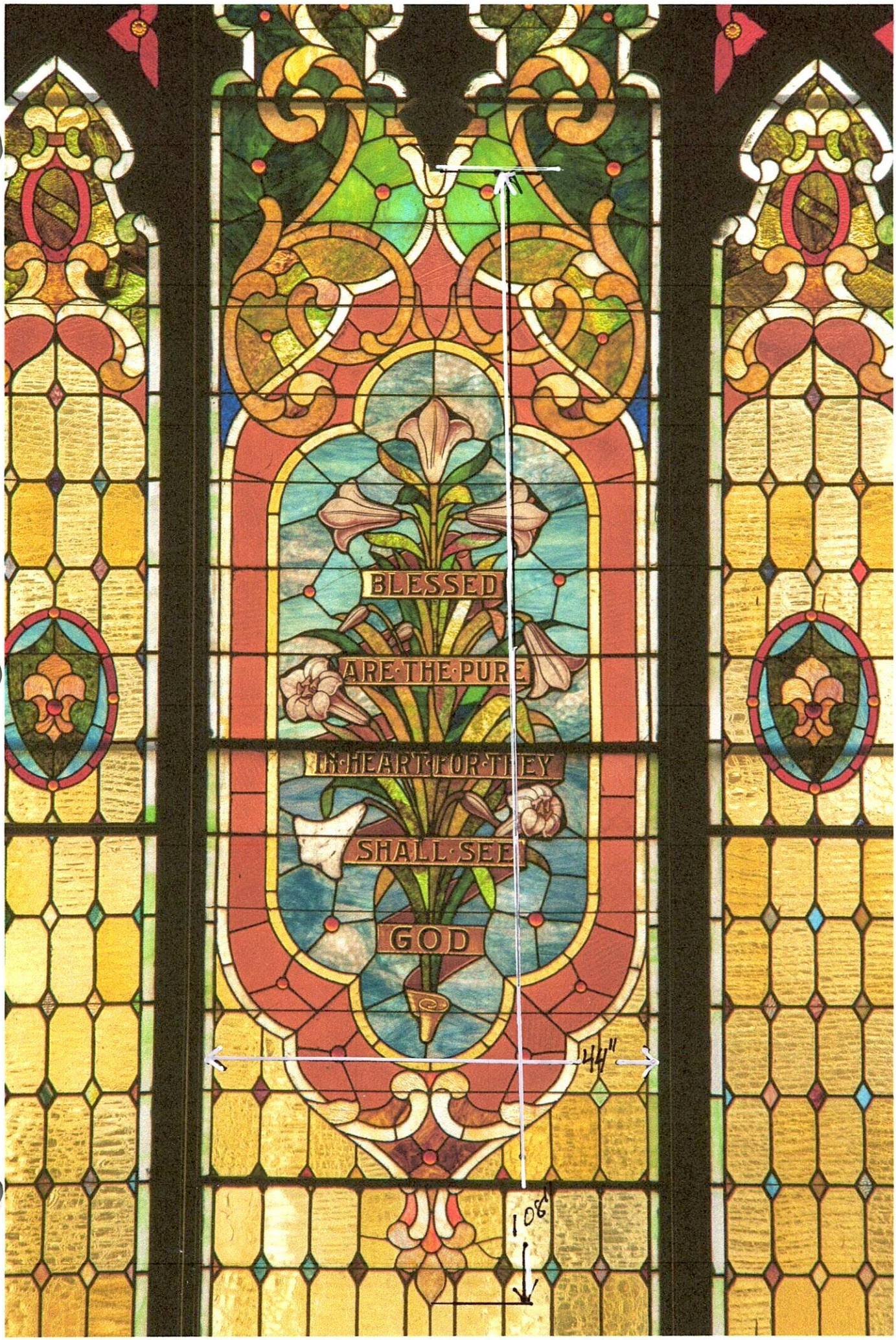

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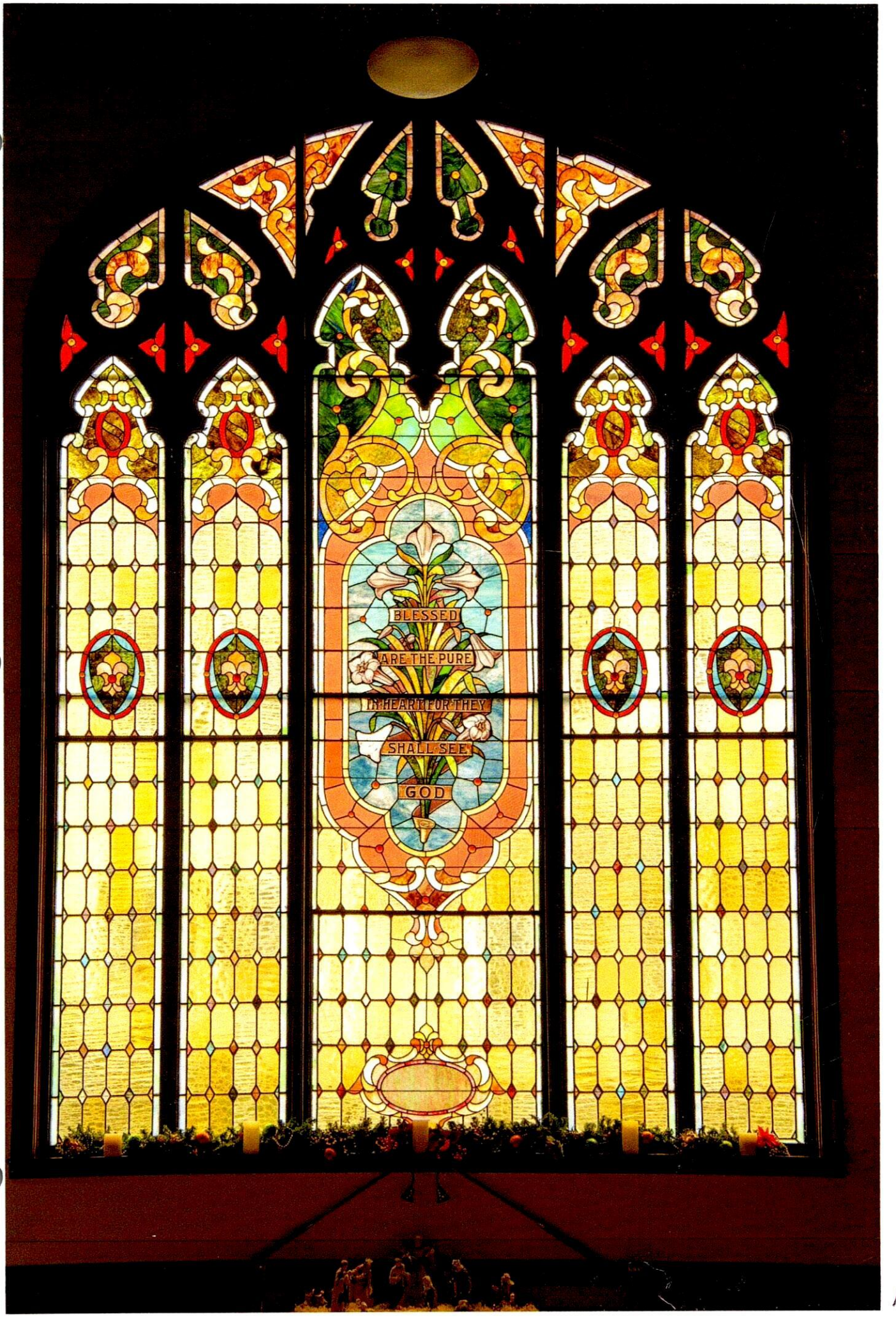

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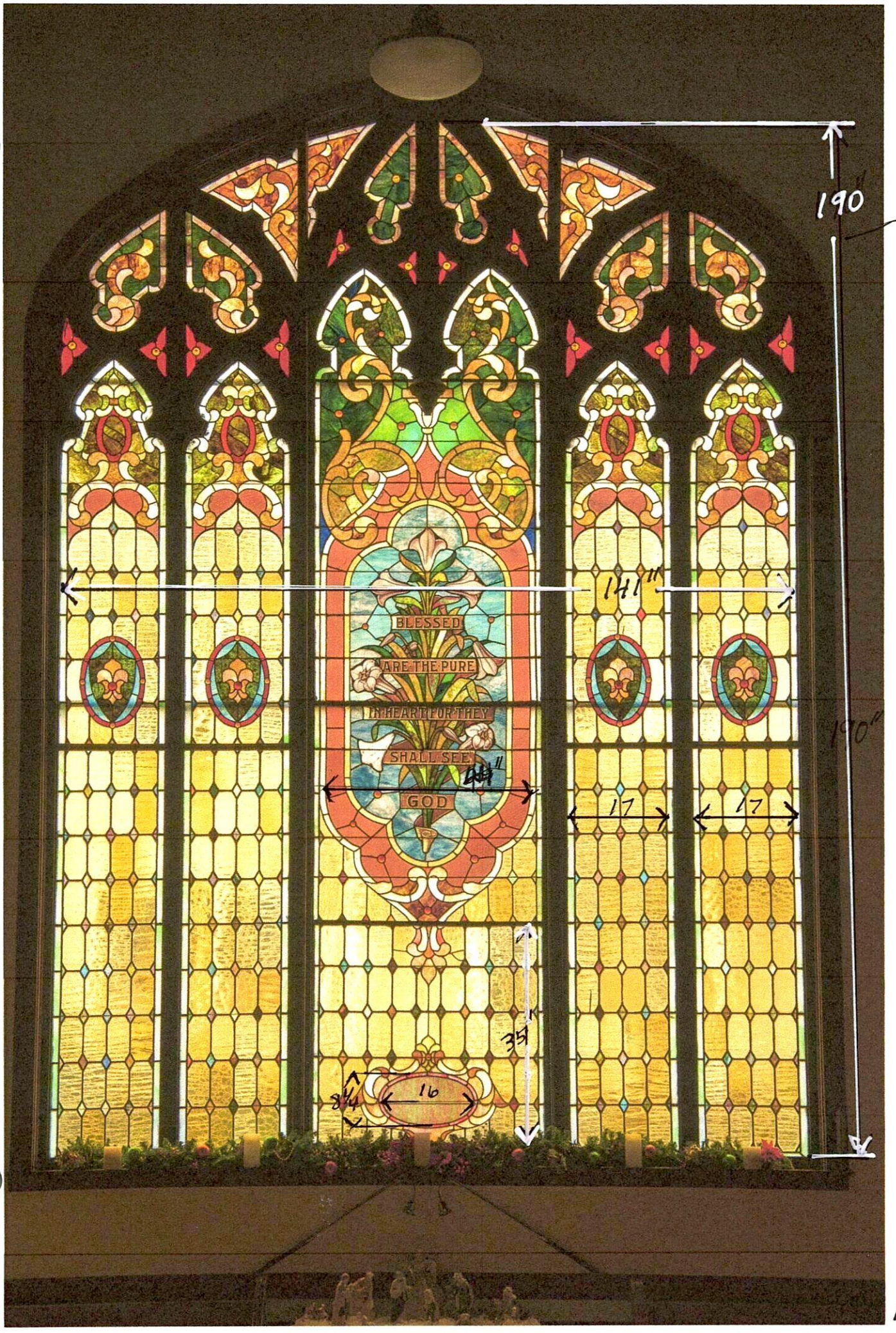
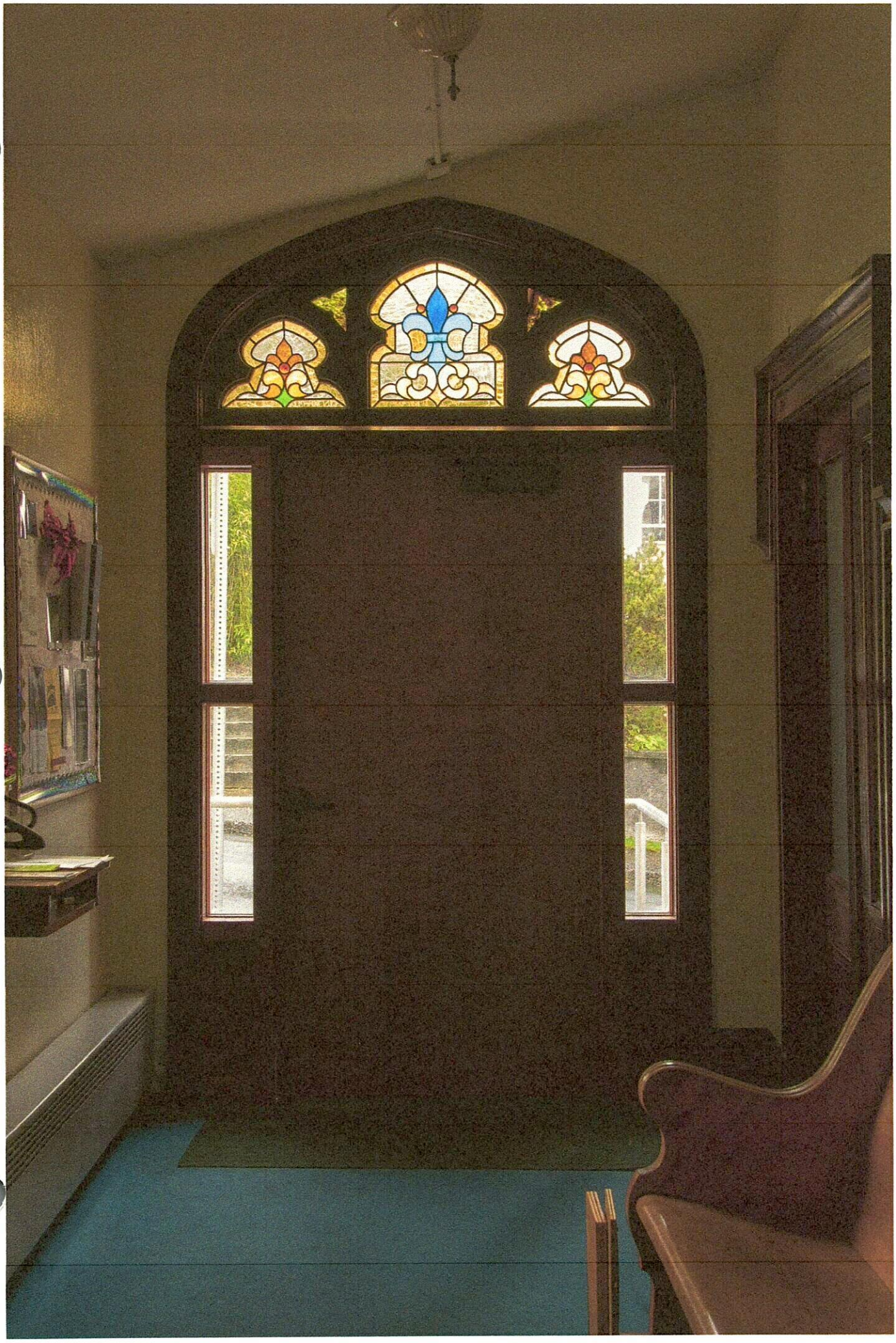

190"
190
141"
BLESSED
ARE THE PURE
IN HEART FOR THEY
SHALL SEE
GOD
190"
17
17
35"
16
3¼
1187

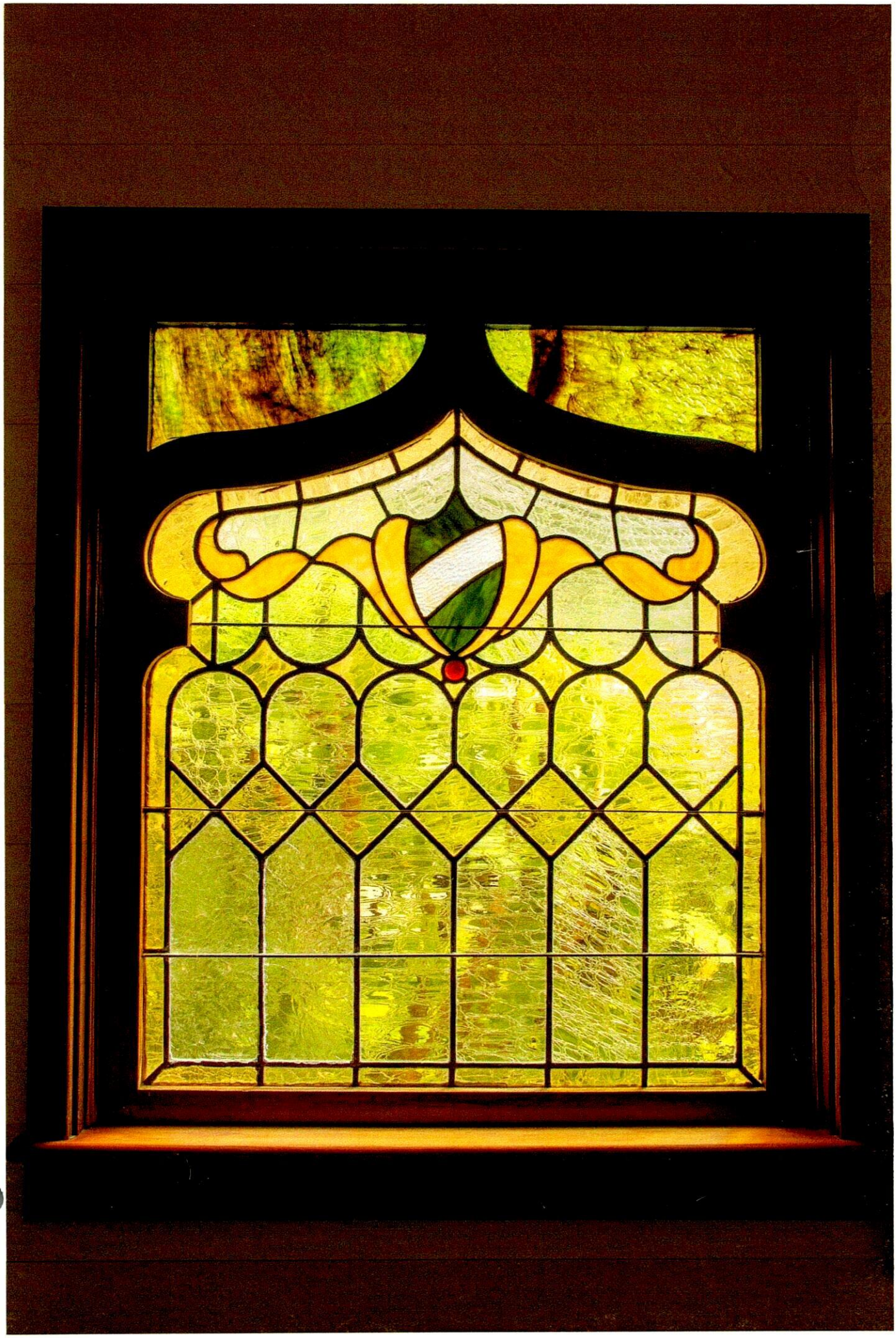
8811

1188

11"
19"
11"
16"
17"
16"

1189





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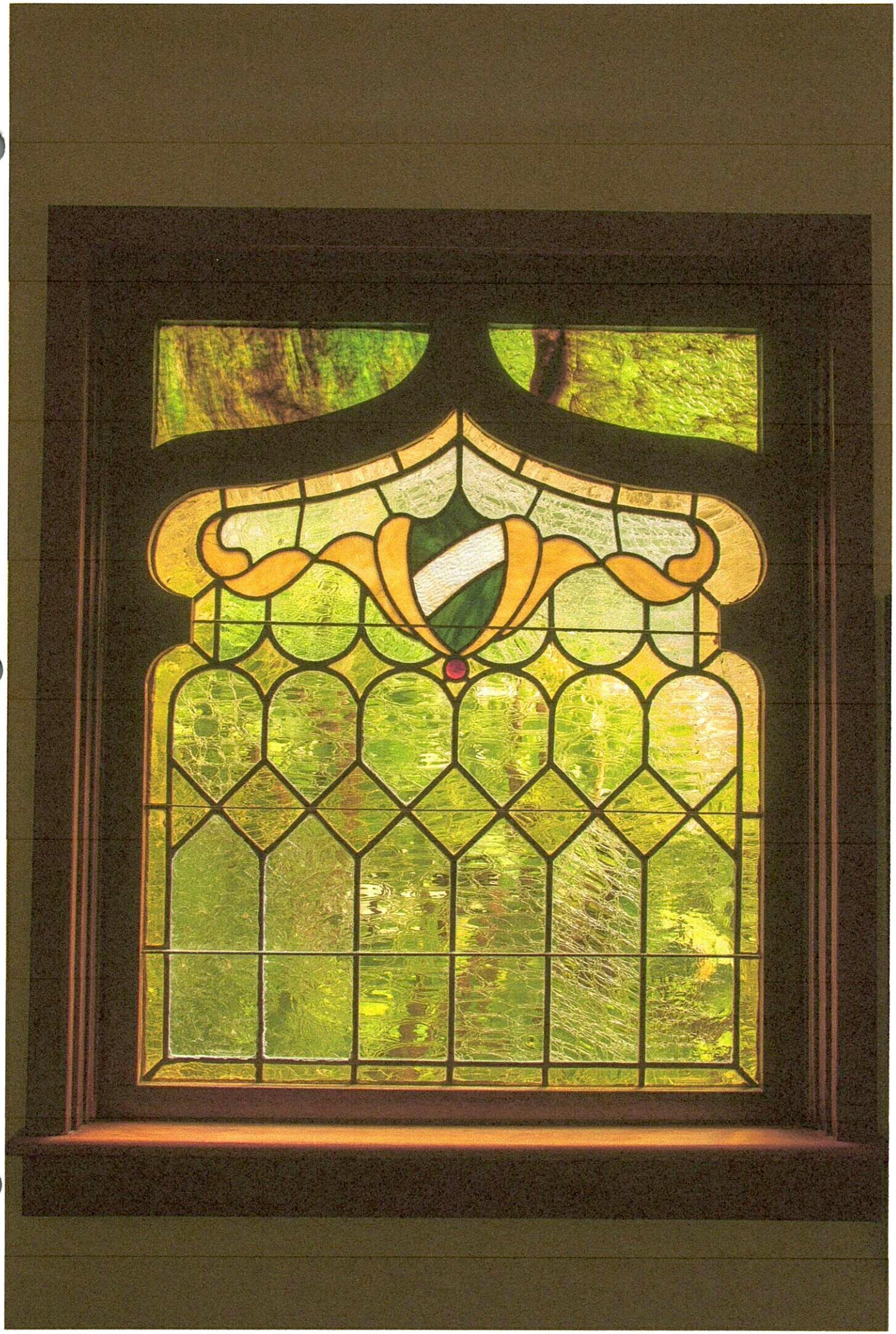

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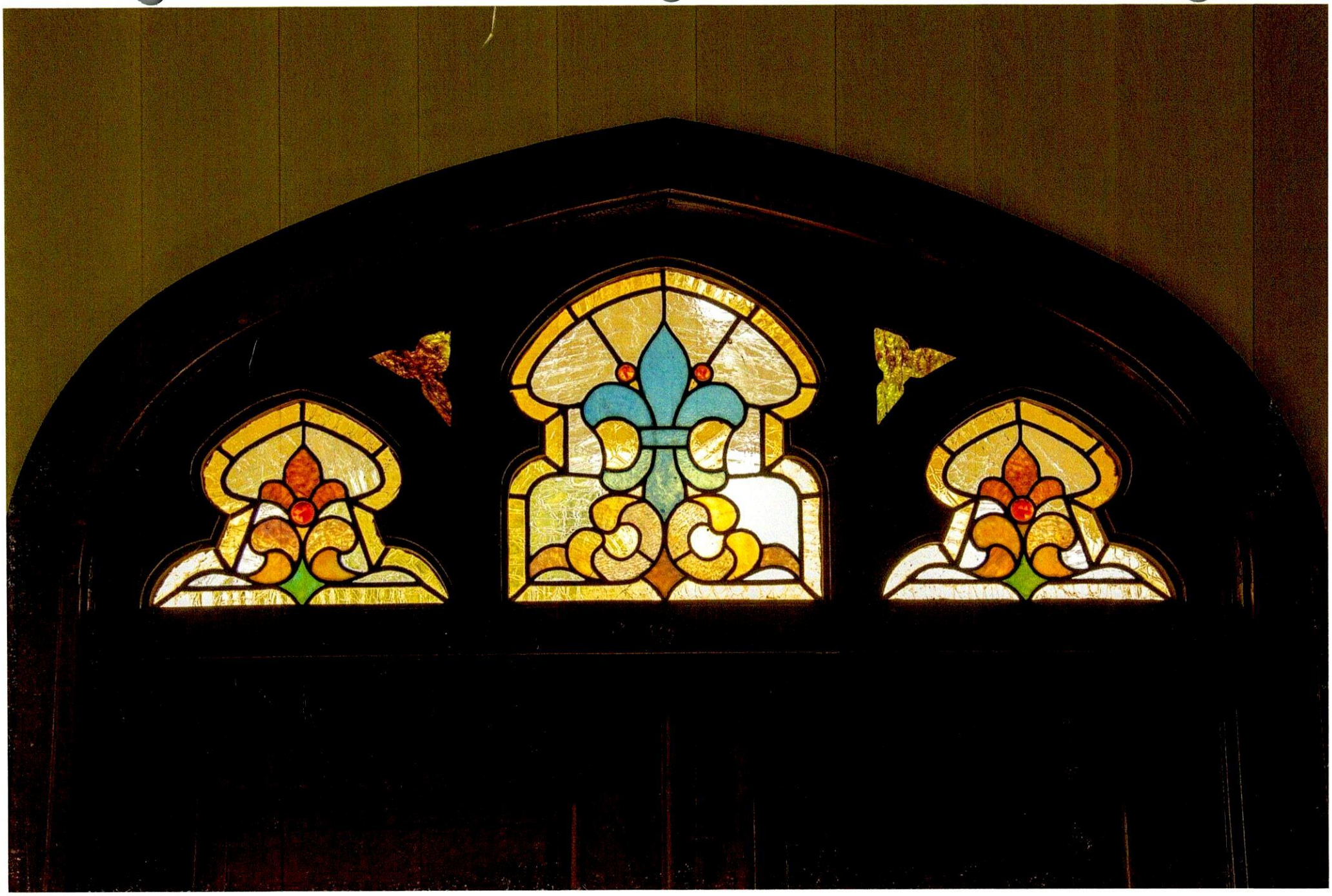
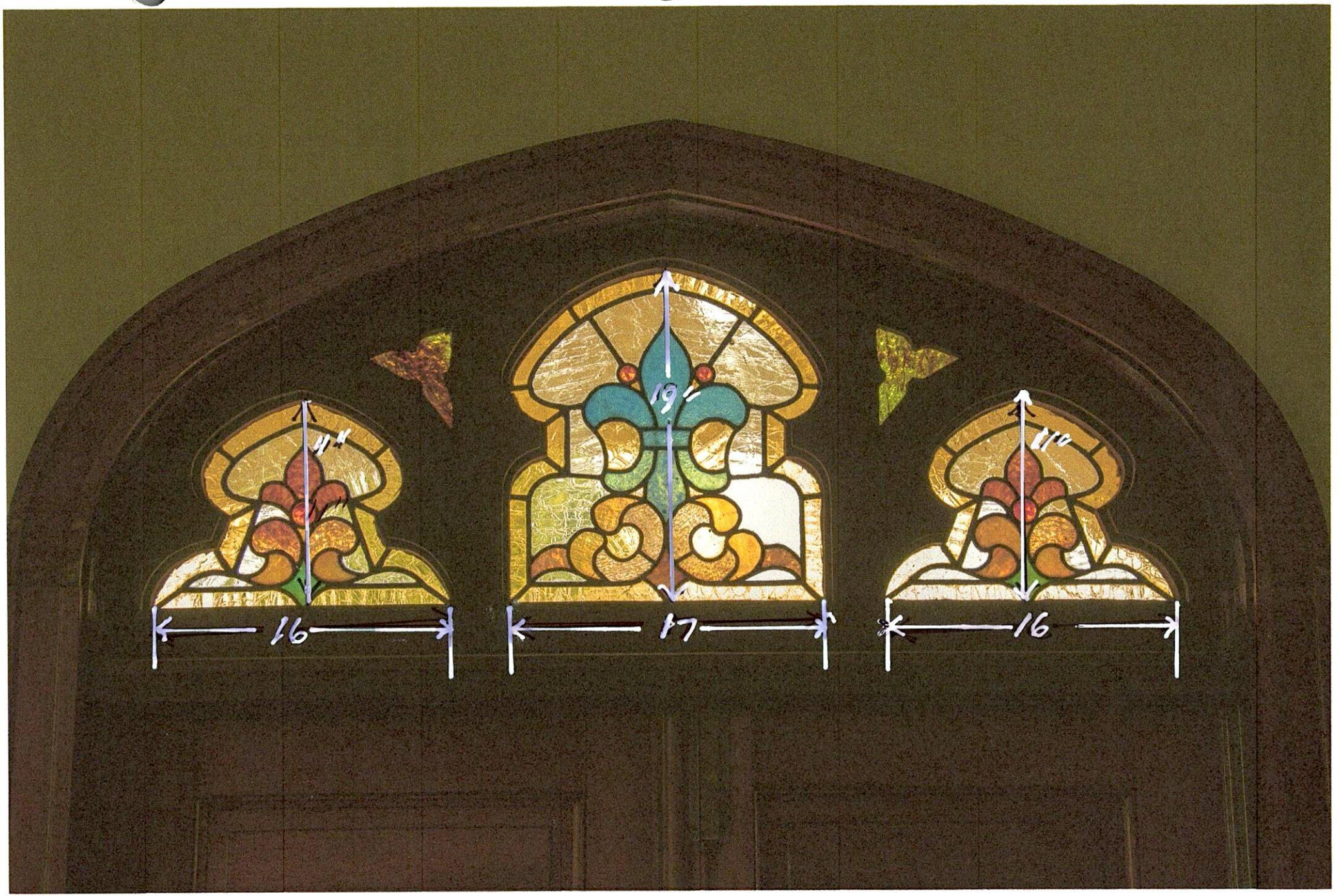


1611

1191



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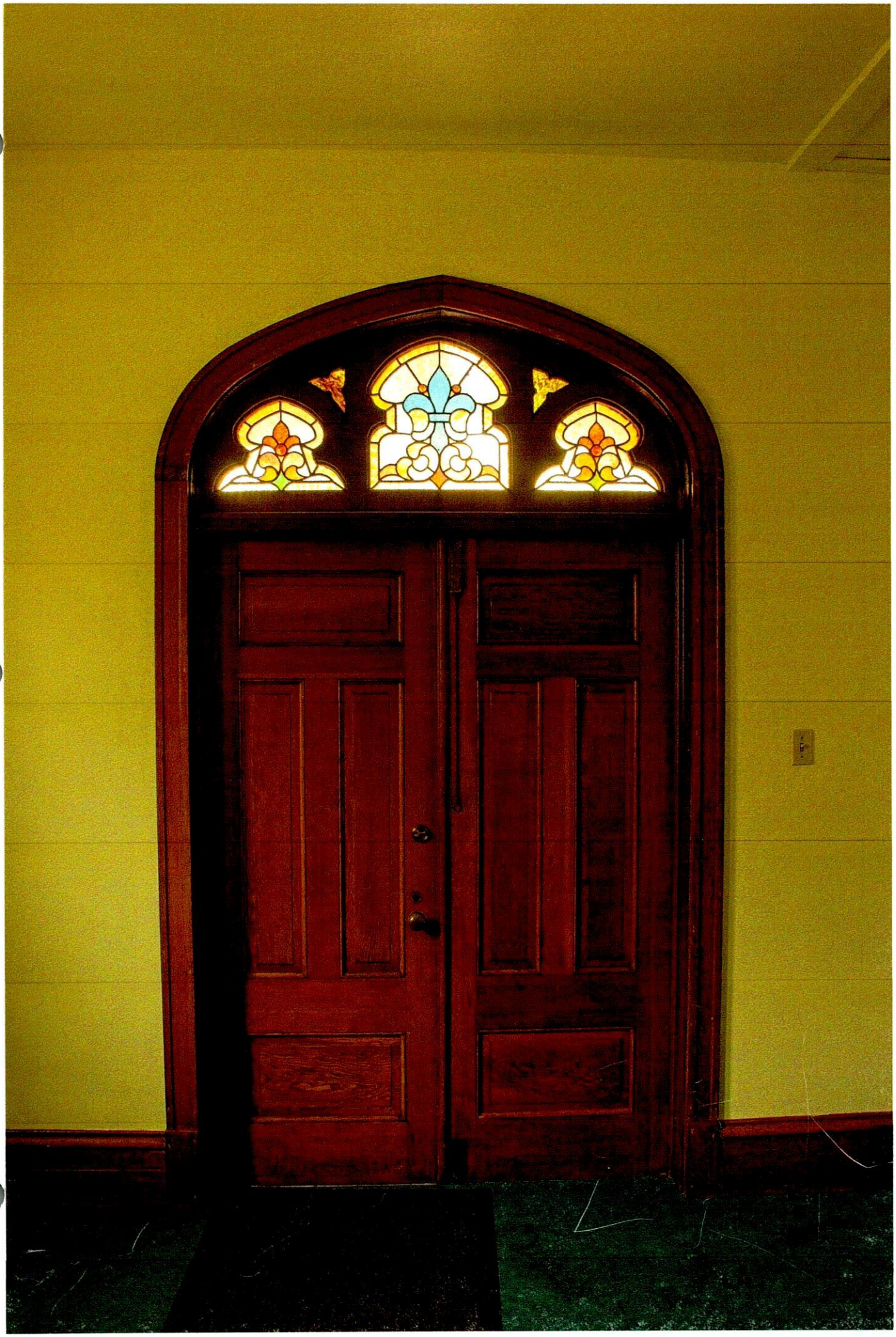

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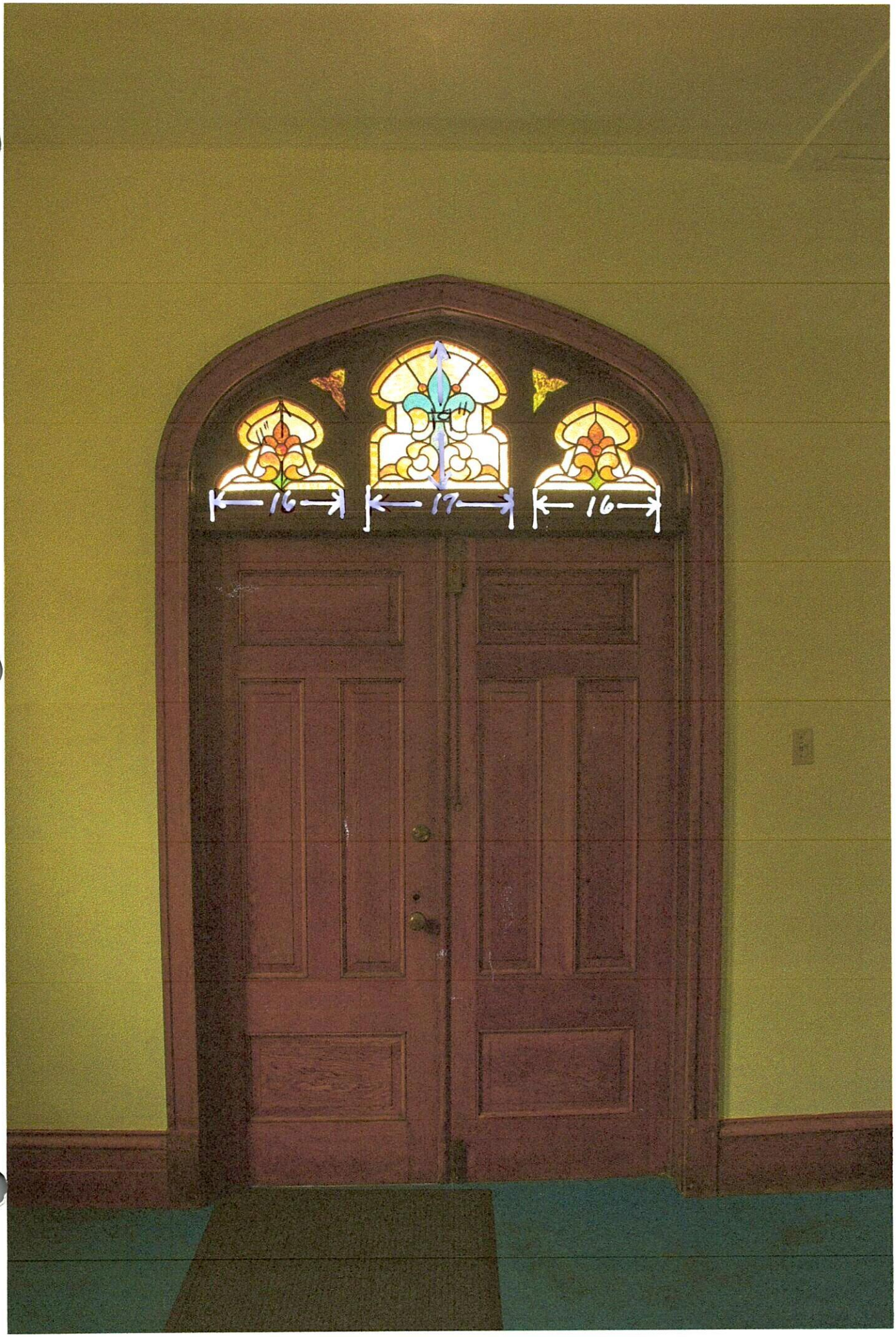

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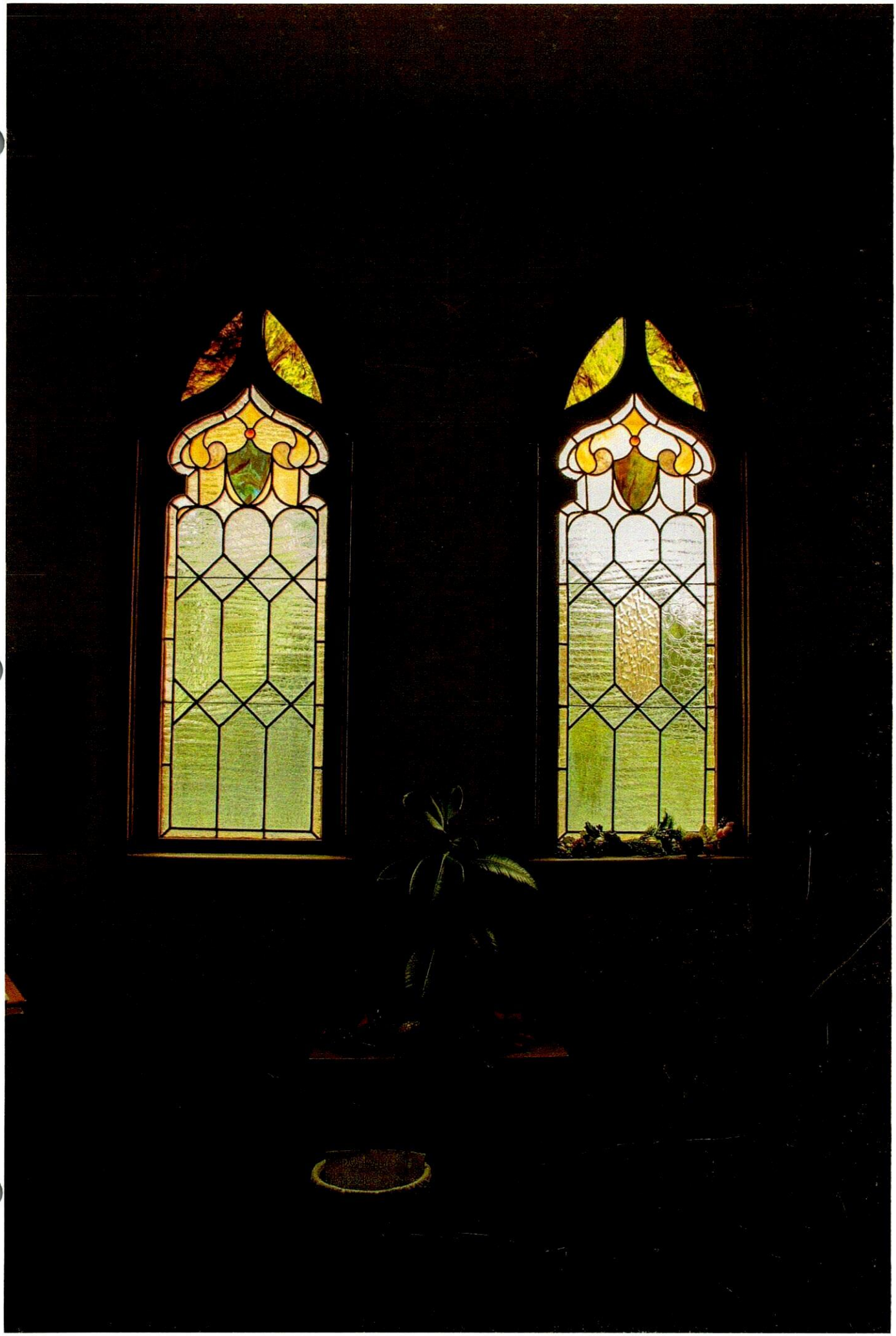

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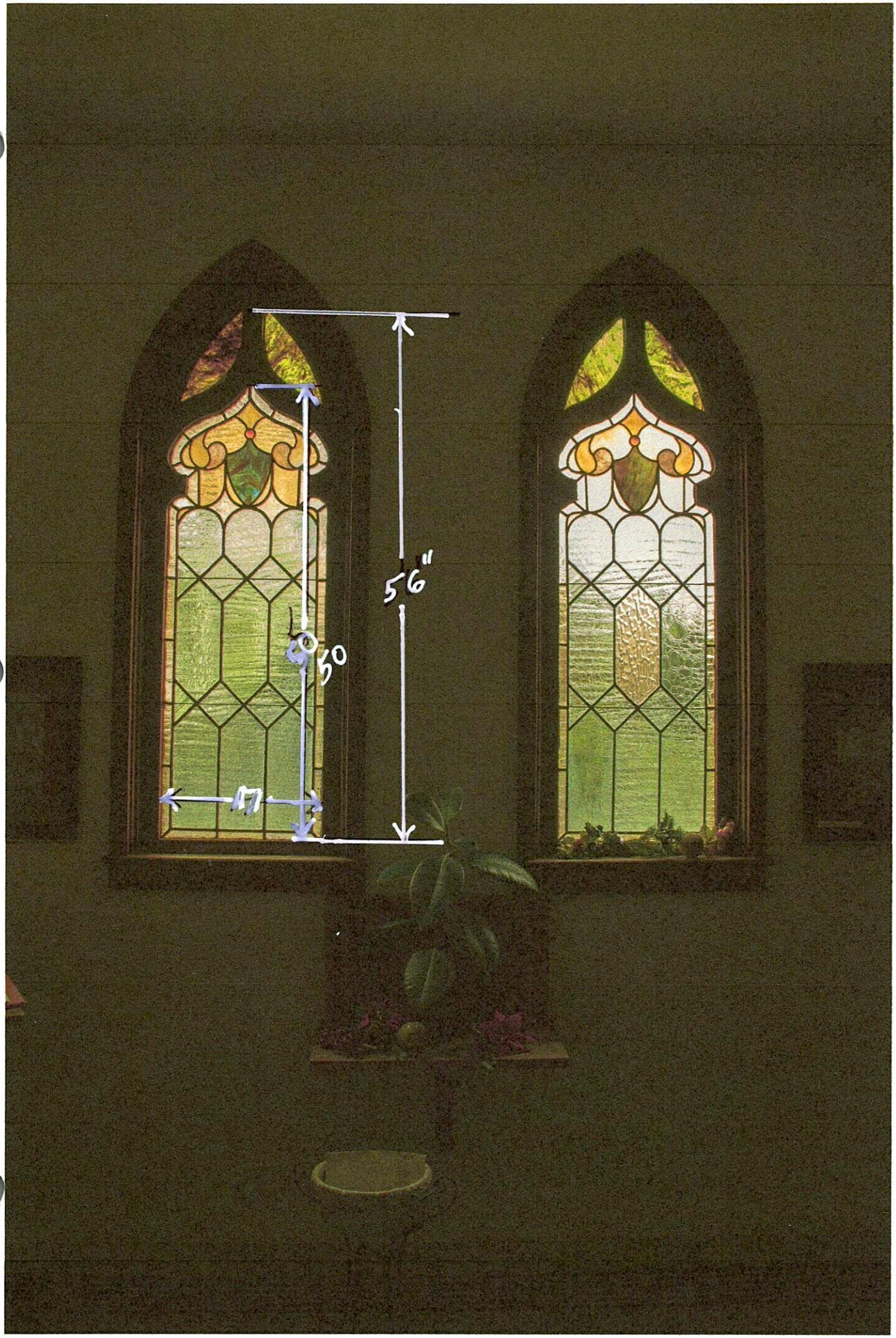
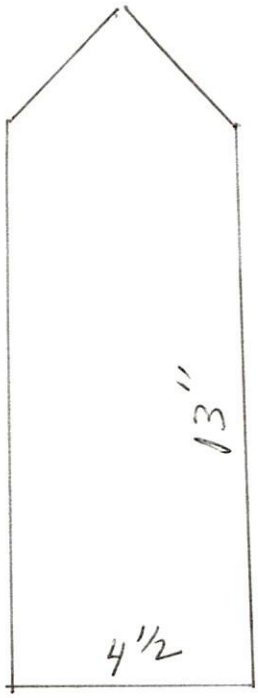
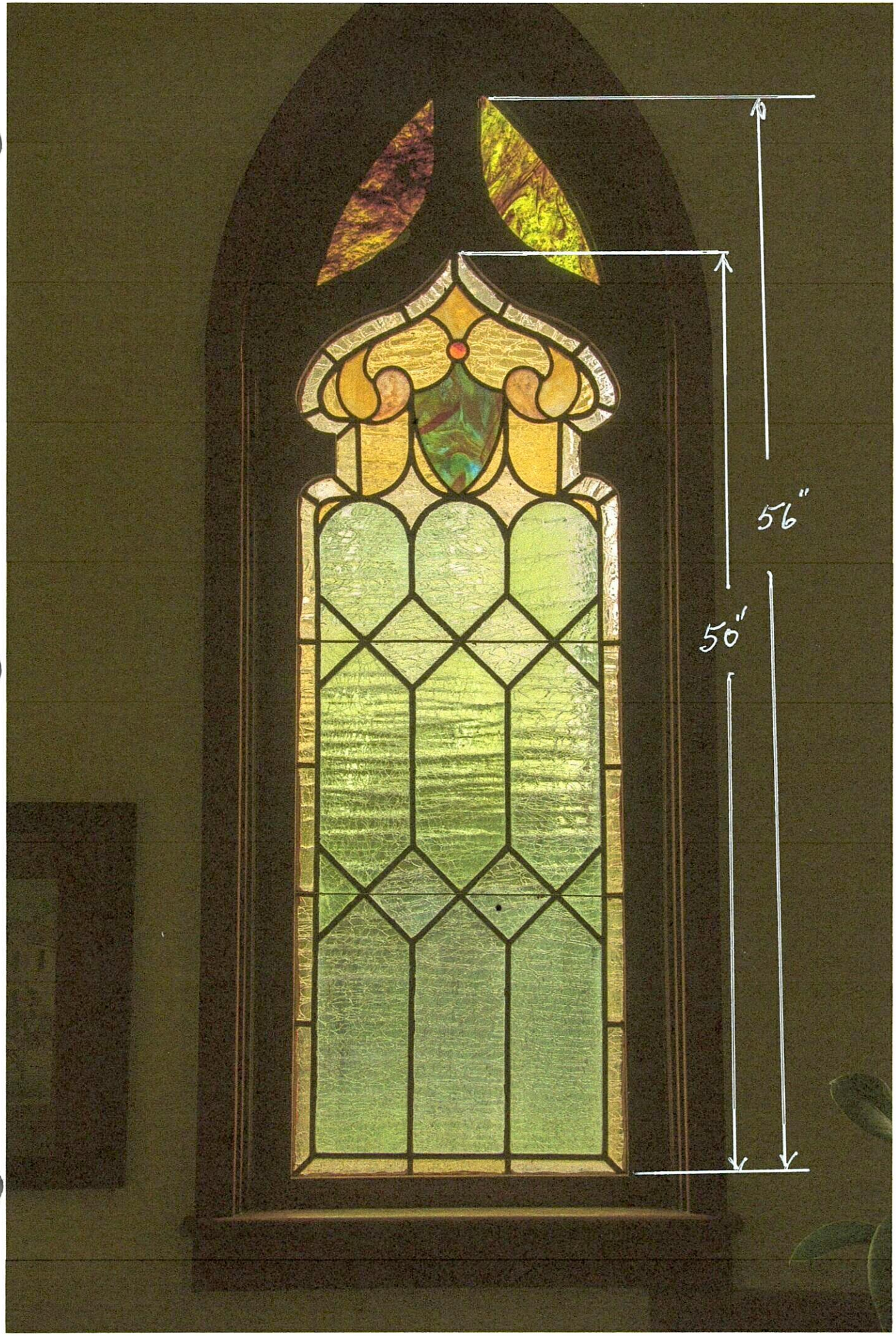


SEE BACK

1193

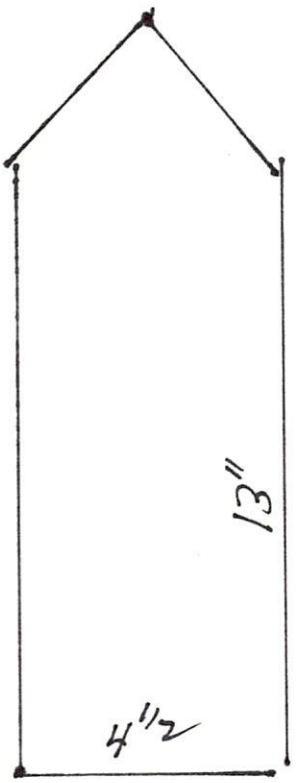

13"
4 1/2

1194

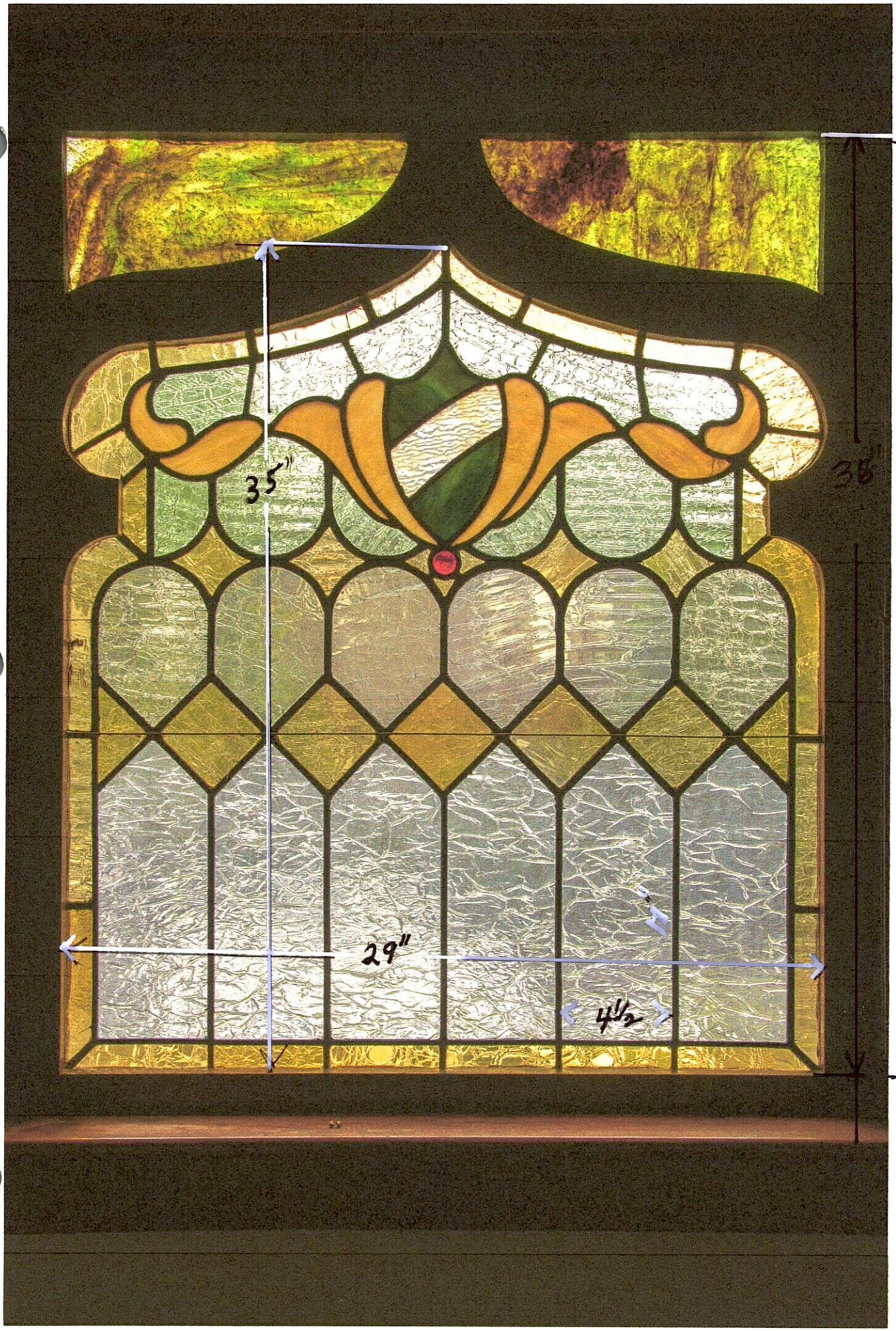


SEE BACK

1194


13"
4 1/2

1195



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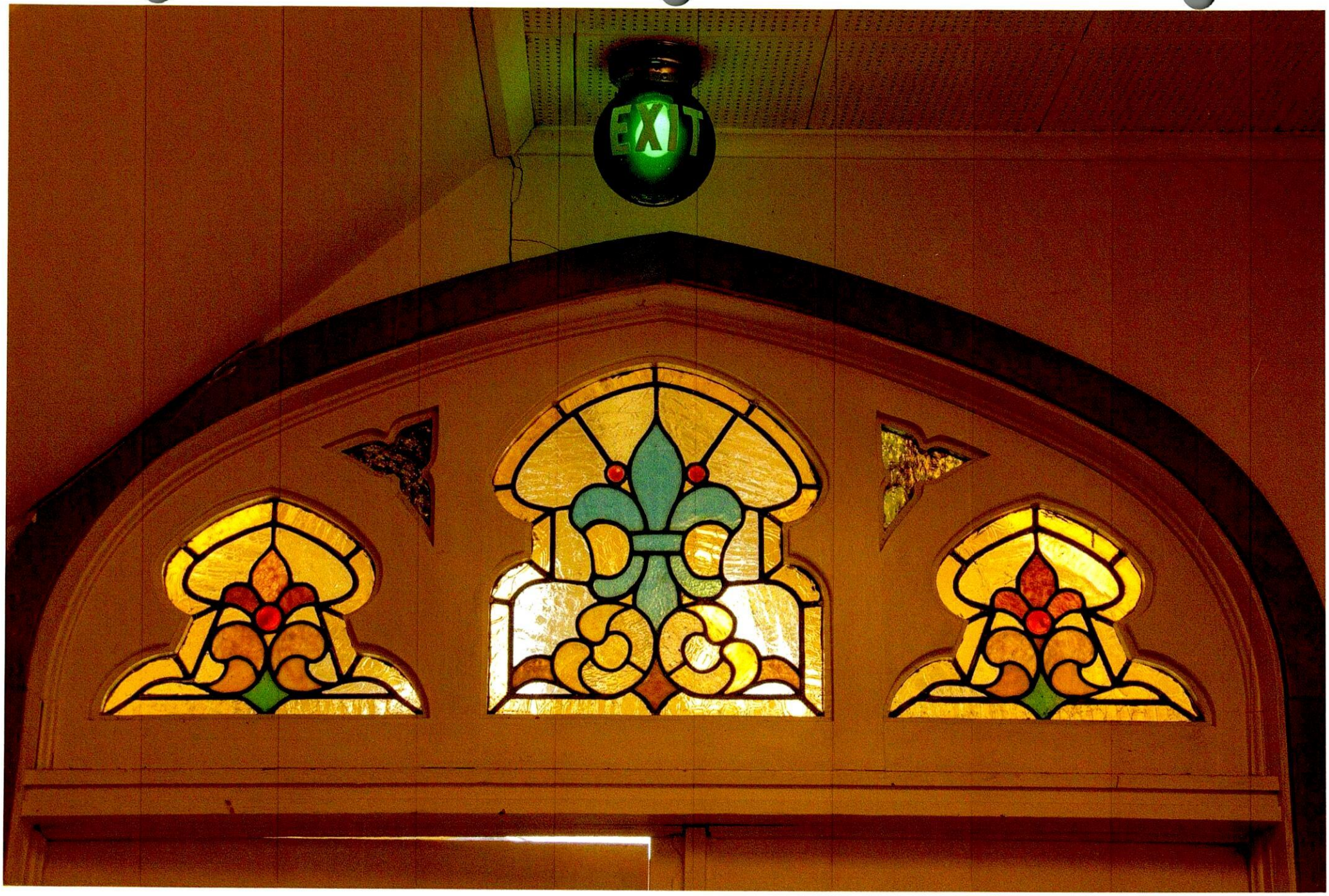

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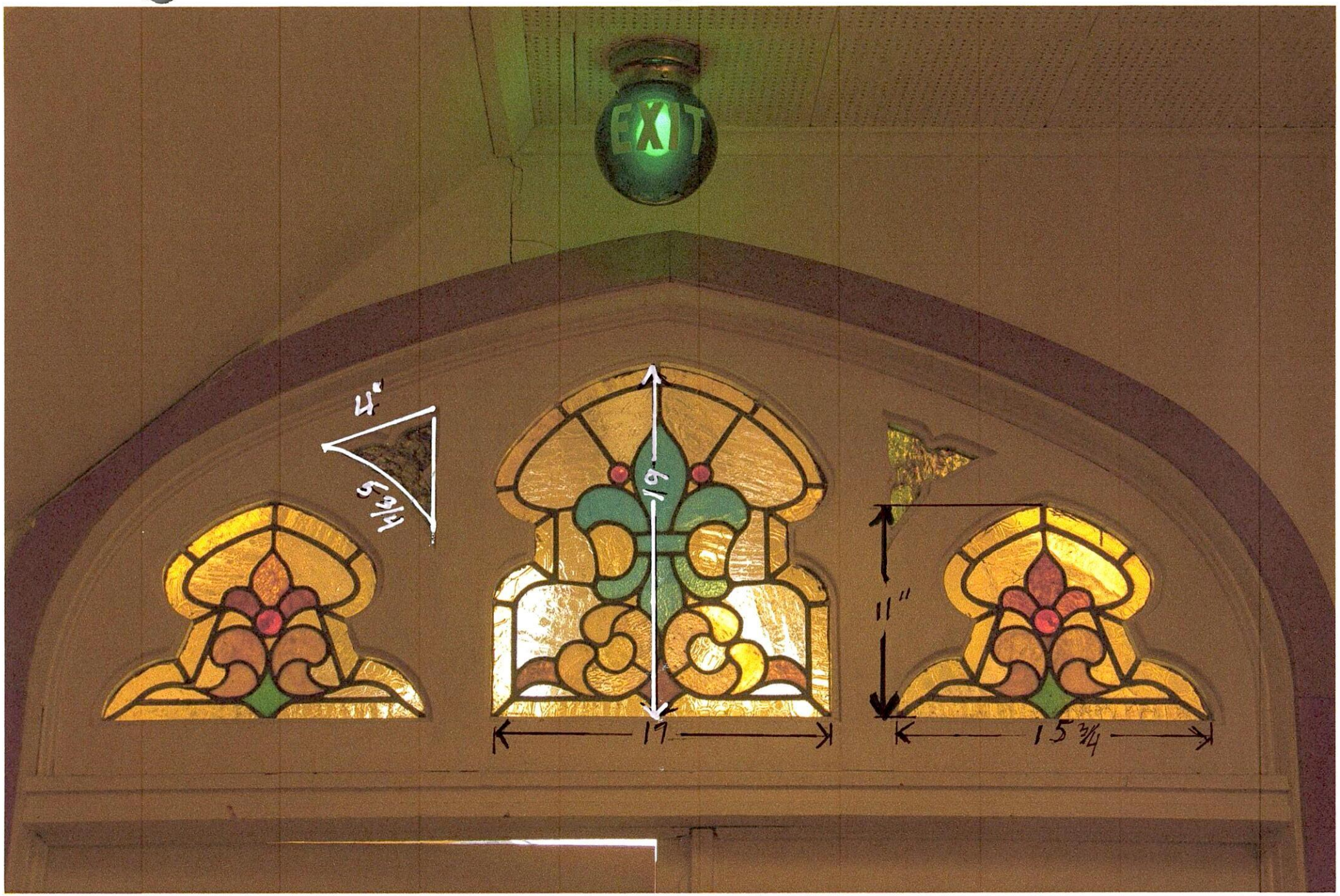
1197



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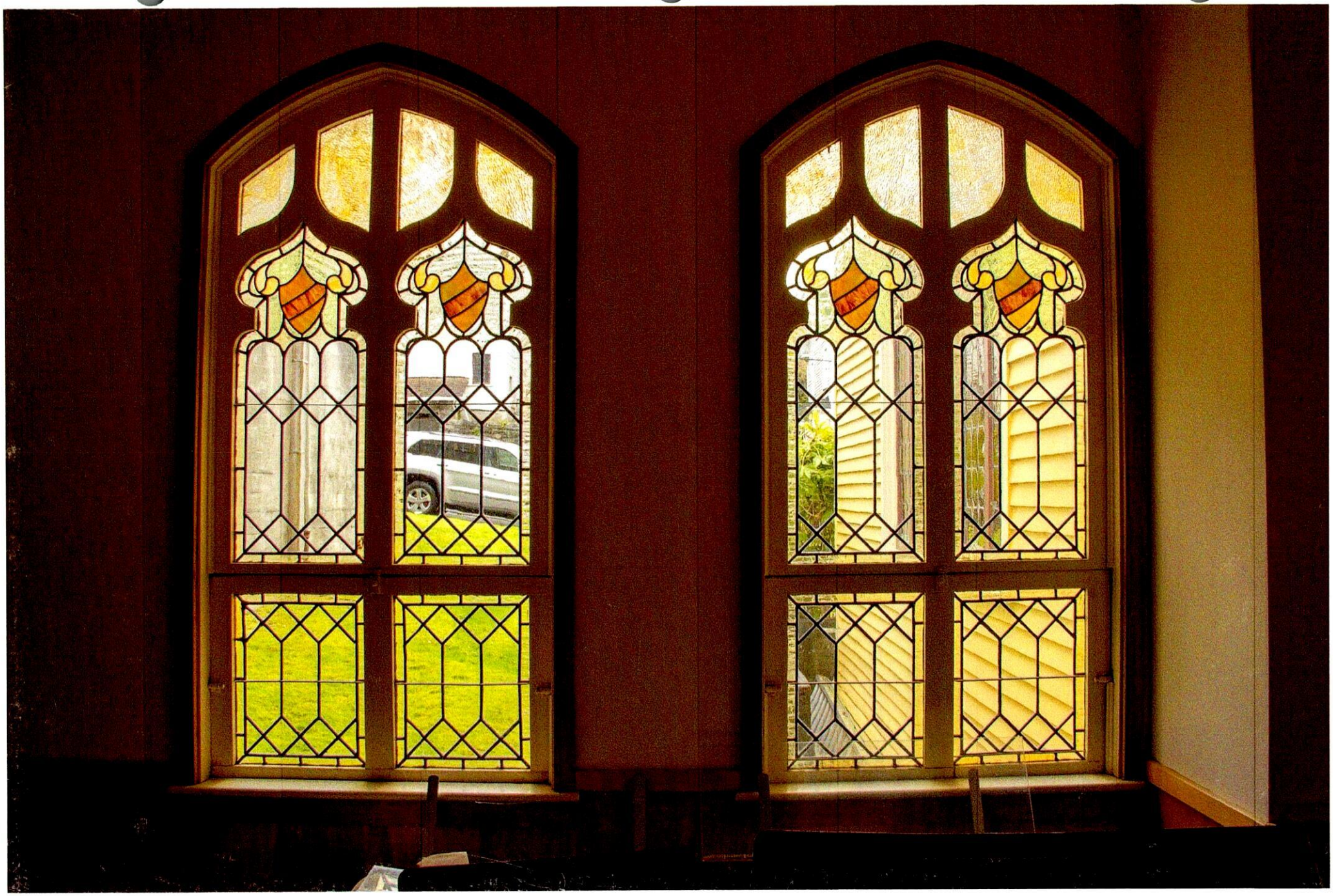

2611

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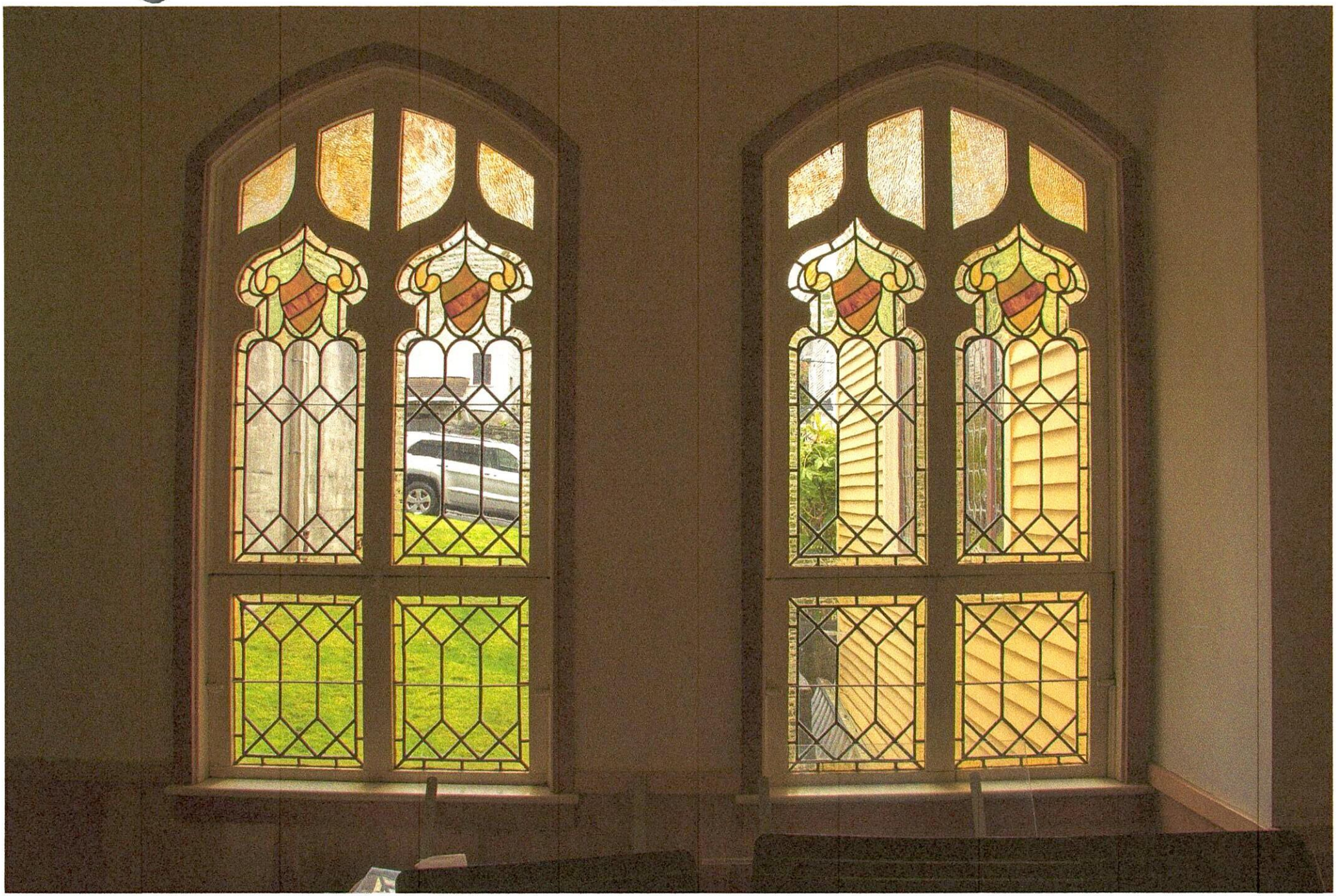

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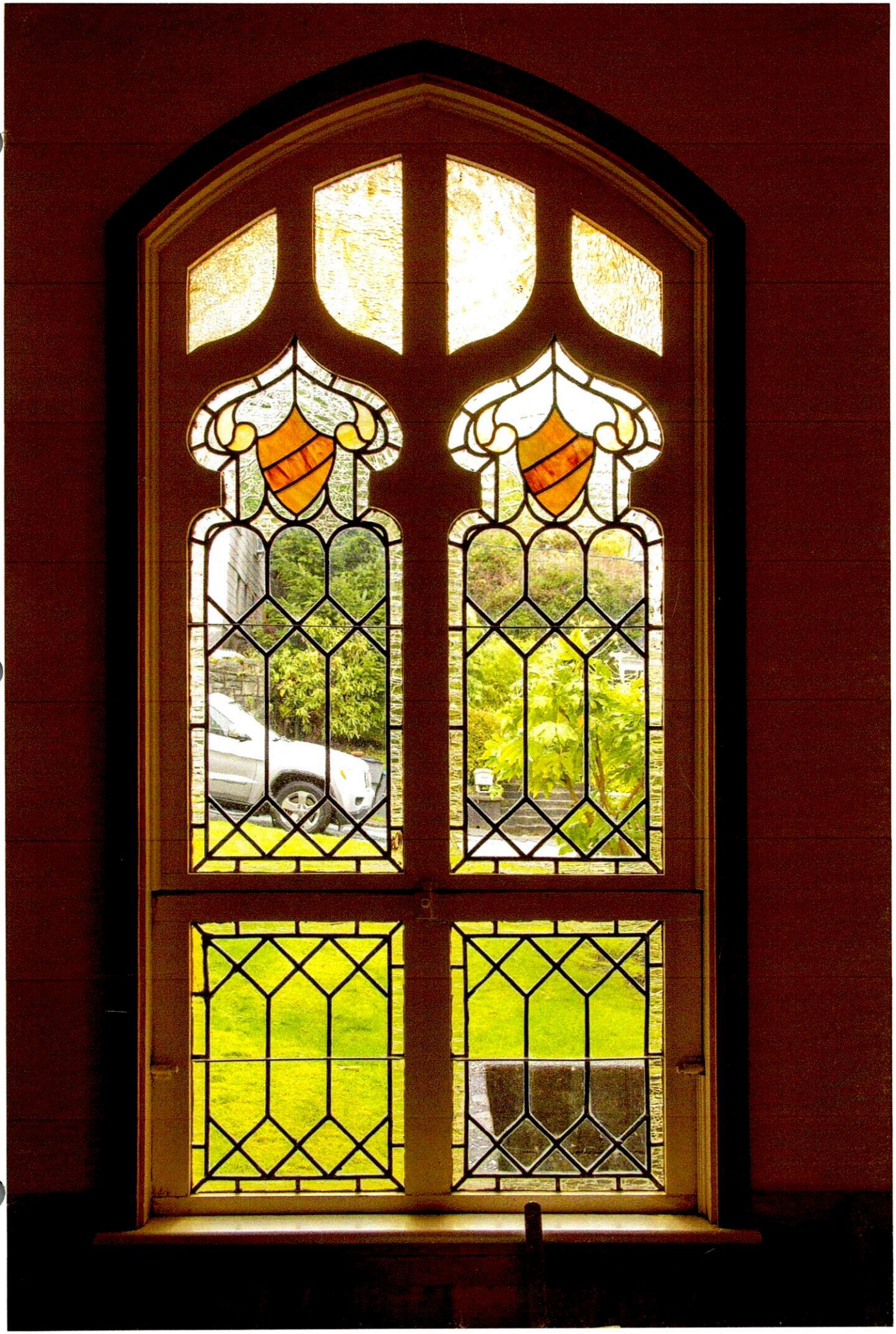

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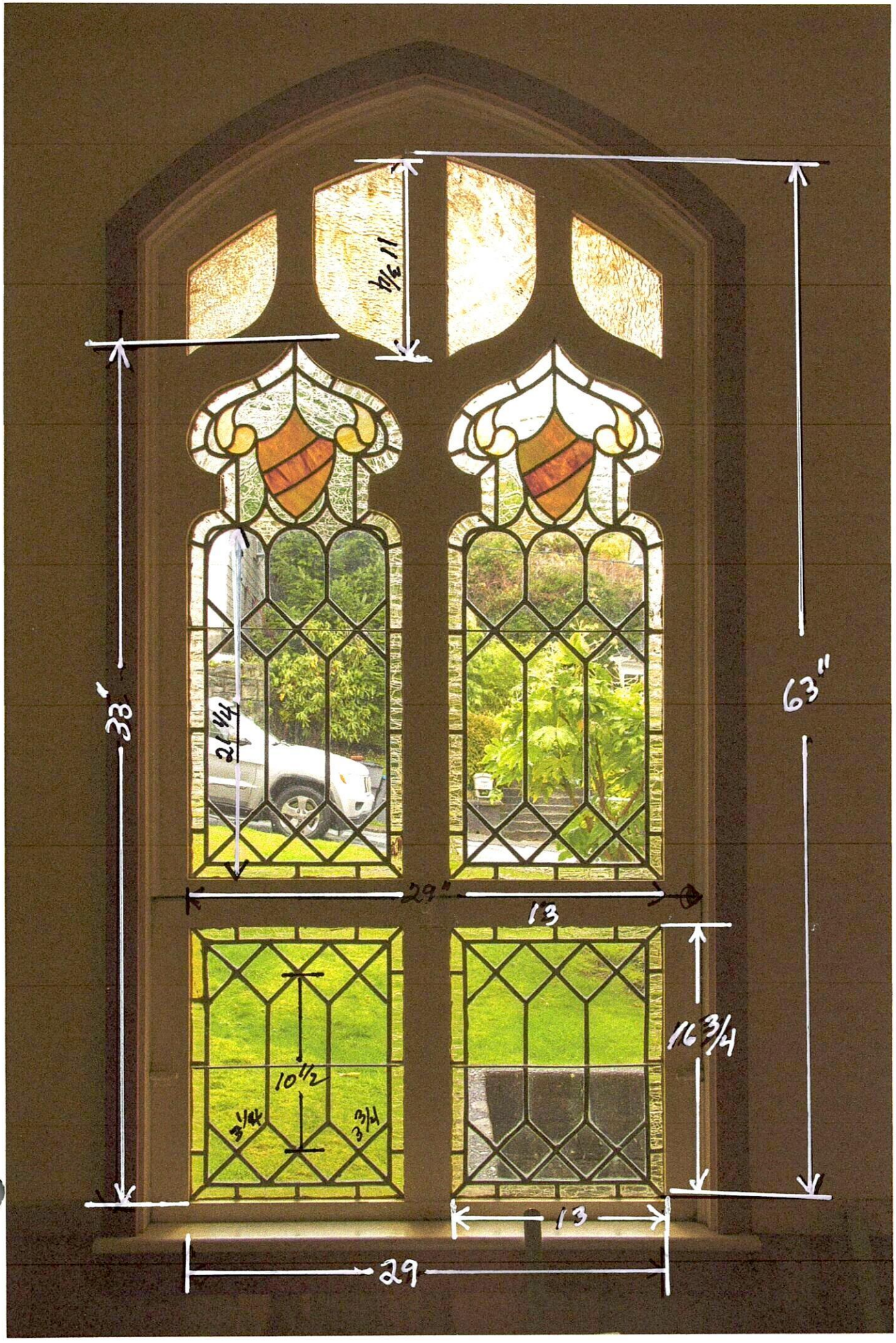
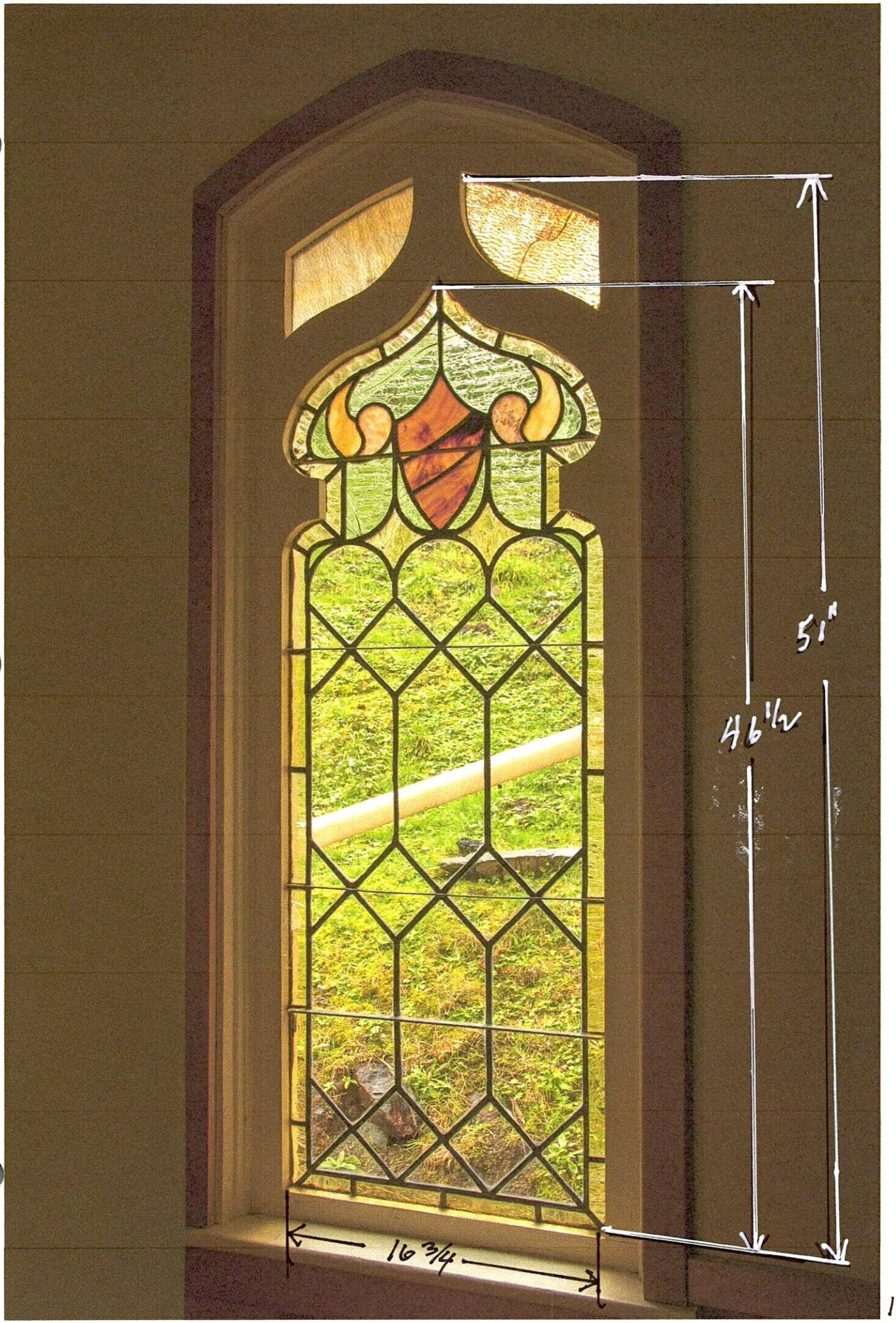


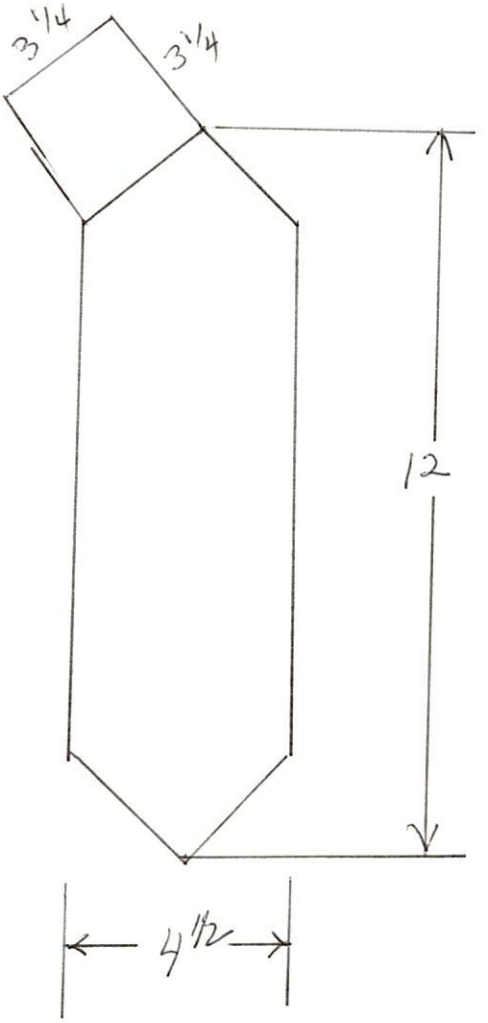
1199

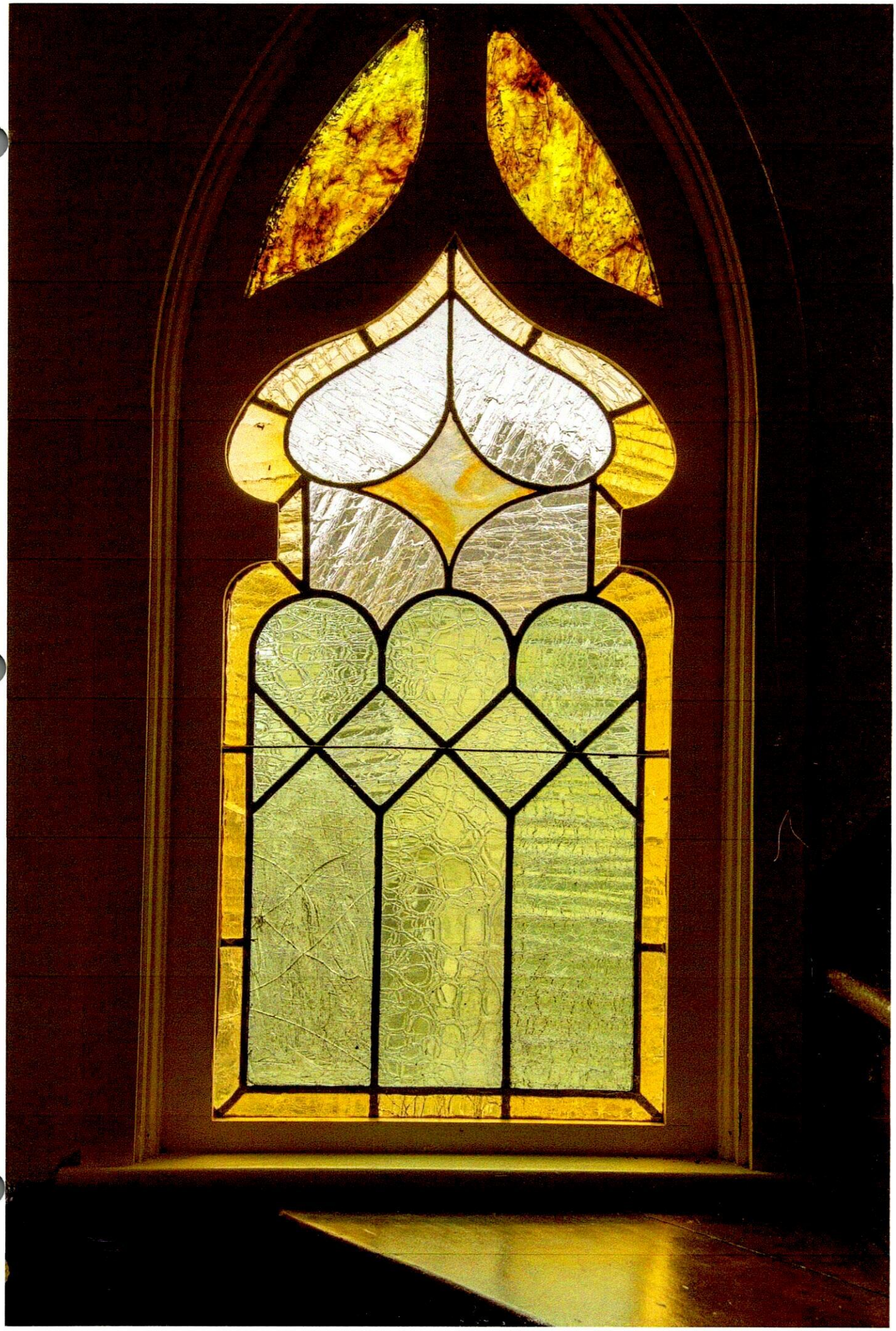
1200



SEE BACK

1200


3 1/4
3 1/4
12
4 1/2



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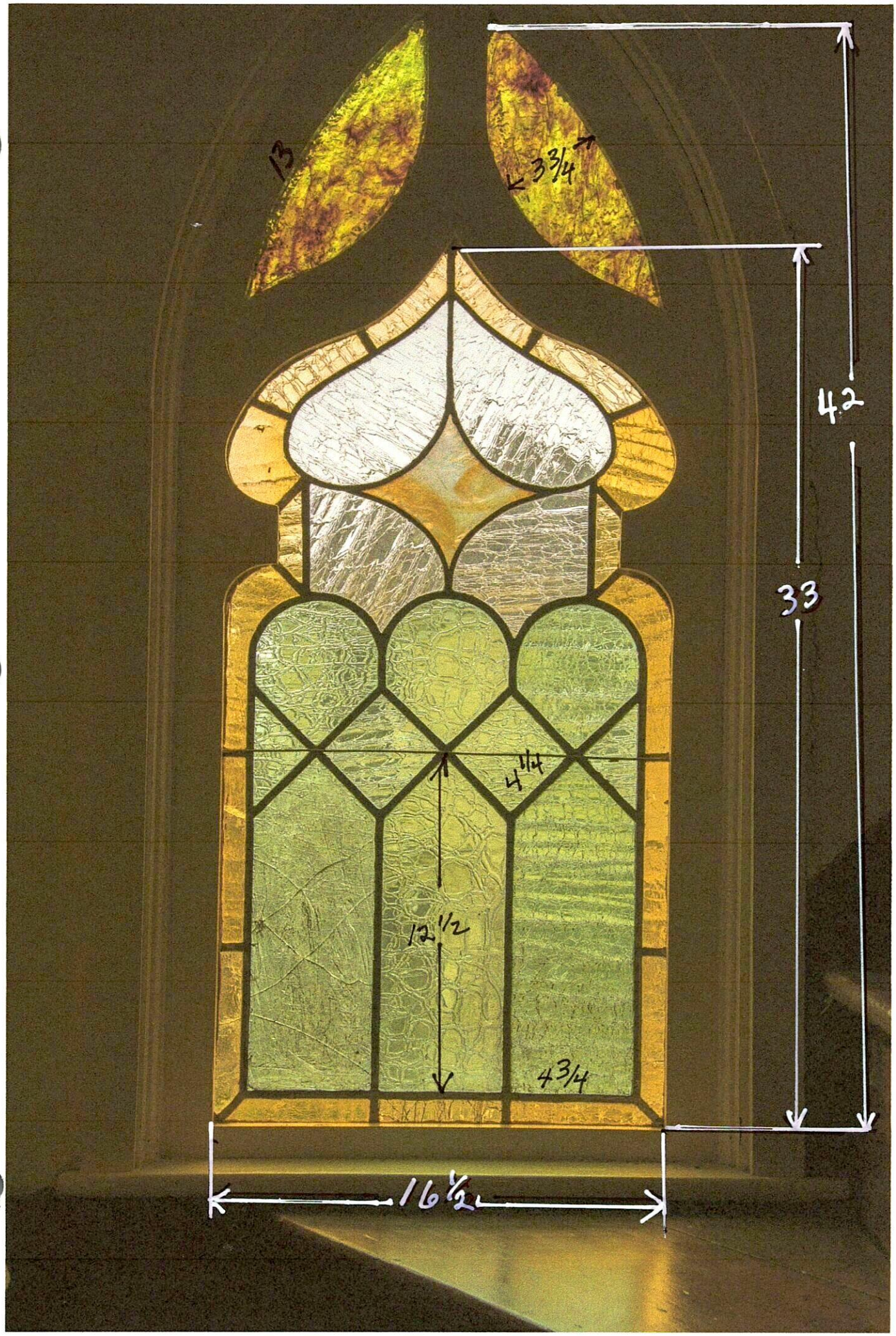
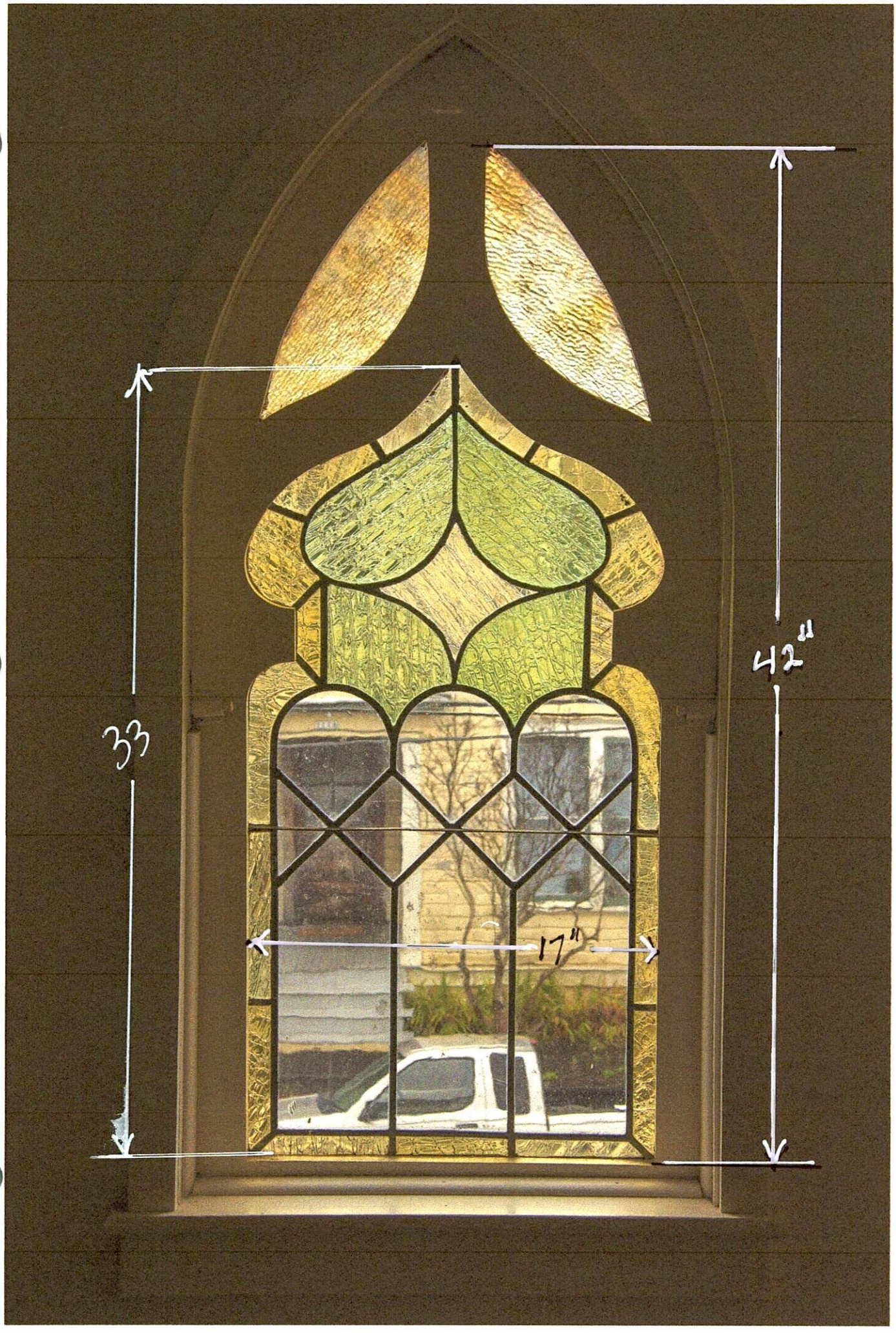


ALL 4 THE SAME

1201



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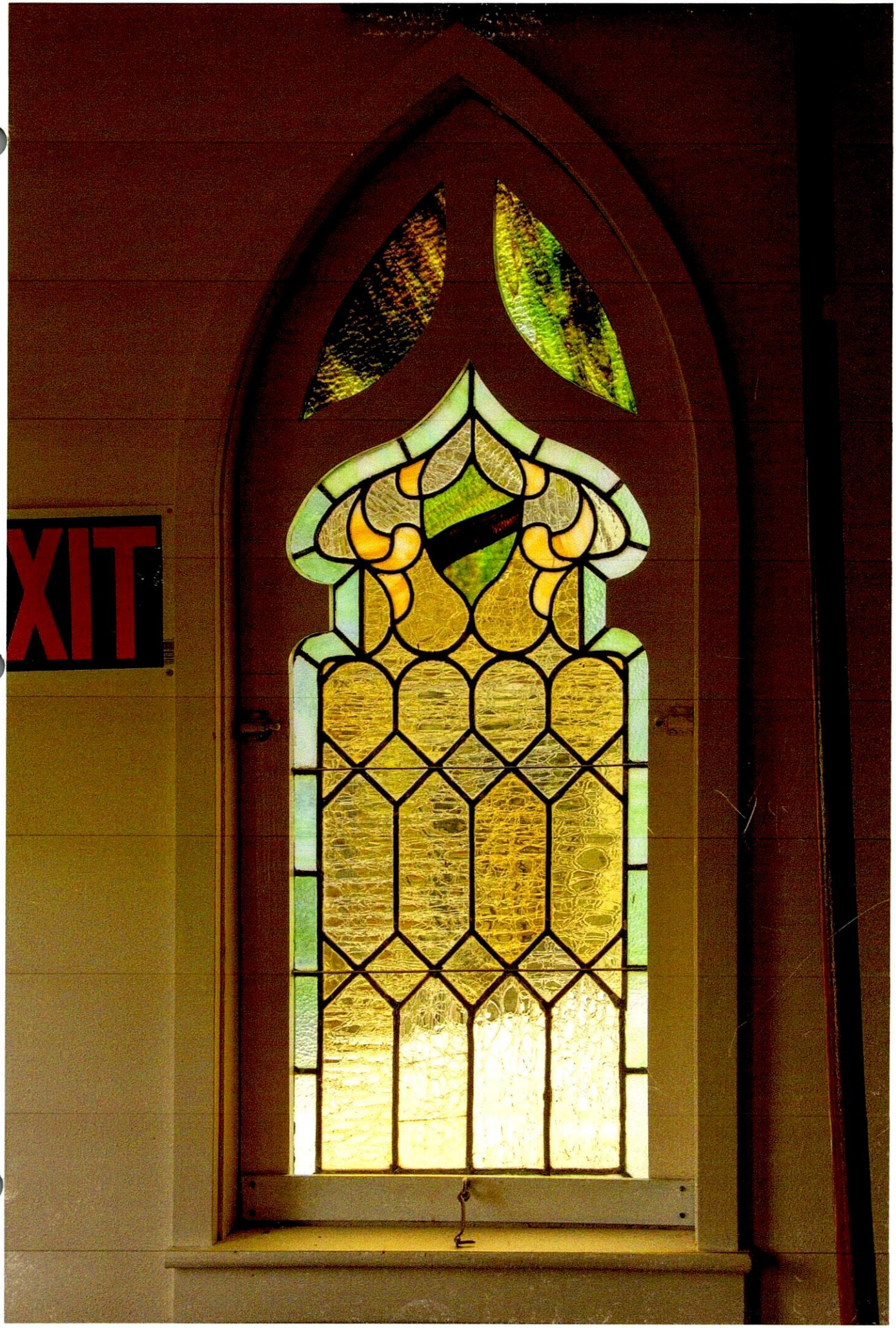

1204

1204

1205

1205

1206

1206

1204